

TIMES

No. 65,874

SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

TODAY

COMEBACK FOR THE FOURTH TENOR

Roberto Alagna's return

PLUS: 32 pages of HOUSE STYLE

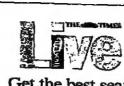


WOTHER-IN-LAW: HARRIDAN-OR ALLY?

> WEEKEND PAGE 11



WHO OWNS YOUR PENSION SURPLUS?



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Central Office divided on tactics

Major takes command for the last week

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR has taken personal control of the Conservative election campaign amid indications of a serious split over tactics at Central Office.

Tory officials have confirmed that the Prime Minister is virtually running the operation from Downing Street and his battle bus. The tension at the top of the leadership over strategy has exposed a serious rift among senior Conservative advisers over whether Europe or the economy should have been made the party's dominant

Mr Major, with Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Lord Saatchi, its advertising chief, overruled strategists by putting the main emphasis on Europe. Their victory was reflected in last night's party Europe was again a main issue. The Prime Minister, to the consternation of some of his advisers, has insisted that the European Union should be a central plank of the

campaign next week. The disagreements reflect a deepening sense of frustration at Central Office over the failure to dent Labour's lead in the opinion polls. They have prompted senior party officials openly to contemplate defeat and speculate on the size of the Labour majority.

Supporters of Mr Major are complaining bitterly that people are already positioning

INSIDE Richard Morrison Graham Searjeant

themselves to ensure they are not blamed in the inquest that would follow a heavy defeat.

Robert Crampton Magazine

And yesterday Norma Major resigned from the election fray after her husband encountered an exuberant crowd of Bangladeshis in the East End of London. She was briefly cornered against railings before bodyguards came to her rescue. An hour later, as Mr Major again mingled with boisterous supporters in nearby llford, his wife avoided the scrum and walked alone through the town's pedestrian precinct.

In the tension over the campaign strategy, it is the decision to rip up the strategy and go on the offensive over Europe that is the clearest illustration of the way Mr Major, backed by Lord Saatchi and Viscount Cranborne, his Downing Street chief of staff, has taken the campaign by the scruff of the neck. It also confirmed suspicions that the chain of command could become blurred

between Mr Major and Lord

the slogan said," the Tory source added. Even the latest poster, "Brit-ain is Booming", has its critics at Downing Street and among some of Mr Major's senior ministers. "When people see boom," they automatically think of bust," a senior Tory said. On Wednesday night, the Prime Minister asserted his authority once more when he overruled Lord Saarchi. who wanted the go-ahead for a

conferences. He knows his weaknesses and he has refrained from too many high-profile media appearances. "But it hurts," one of his friends said. "He knows full well he will be blamed if

Cranborne and Central Office and Lord Saatchi.

Danny Finkelstein, head of the Conservative research department, and David Willetts, chairman, argued strongly last week that the economy should be the battleground. "Deep down people still do not trust Labour on tax," one senior Tory official said. "We should have been hitting them hard on the subject. Europe can prove too divisive."

Mr Major and Dr Mawhinney have not always agreed. It was Mr Major who rejected a re-run of the Tories' "demon eyes" campaign agaisnt Tony Blair. Plans were drawn up and they were en-thusiastically backed by Lord Saatchi, Sir Tim Bell and Lord Chadlington, the former Peter Gummer. "Some of our best of the campaign. We boasted the most effective ad we had done for years, so why wasn't it repeated?" a senior party official asked

The "New Labour New Danger" slogan, which was unveiled with a flourish last year, has been unofficially buried. Ministers were primed to ram home the message at press conferences and in media interviews. But the expression is rarely used amid disagreemnts over whether the message was confused. We were trying to say new Labour was old, the same old danger, but that was not what

hig newspaper advertising campaign in the last few days of the campaign. Dr Mawhin-ney agreed with Lord Saatchi.

Dr Mawhinney has seemed increasingly ill at ease with a role he never sought and which his critics say he is not suited to. He has only a walk-on role at the daily press



Parched landscape receives rain at last

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

RAIN swept across most of Britain yesterday giving welcome relief to gardeners and farmers, especially in the South East which had its first significant fall for five weeks with four millimetres falling by late afternoon and more coming. The four millimetres compare to one to two millimetres over the past month - and a seasonal average of 50 mm.

There was also heavy rain across Wales, the north Midlands and East Anglia, where farmers have been But weeks of wet weather will be needed to end the drought. Scientists

IRA prompts poll

day security alert

Security plans for polling day were announced by the Home

Office as the IRA again dis-

rupted motorway traffic and

set off bombs next to an

Dinosaur fossils

found in China

A dinosaurs' graveyard found

in a remote region of northern China also contains fossil

remains of primitive birds,

mammals, insects and plants,

apparently frozen at a mo-

ment about 135 million years

ago when a sudden catastro-phe, perhaps a volcanic erup-

tion, wiped them out .Page 17

be on guard

now drier than during the drought of 1976 and reservoir levels have, for the first time this year, begun to fall,

Yesterday's downpours, which are forecast to last into Monday, disrupted many County Cricket championship matches. There was no play at Old Trafford in the match between Lancashire and Durham, nor at Trent Bridge between Nottinghamshire and

Drivers were warned to take extra care as the rain mixed with rubber, oil and dust to create slippery conditions.

Although the unsettled weather is forecast to persist across most of Britain, experts said the rain would do underground suppplies. A spokesman for the Environment Agency said yesterday that they had detected the first fall in reservoir levels after the

winter recharge period. Reservoirs across England and Wales were 90 per cent full on April 17. They have dipped slightly to 88 per cent capacity as demand rises. In the South West and Yorkshire levels are at 70 per cent of capacity.

Scientists at the Institute of Hydrology in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, said the soil mositure levels in southern England are now lower than in 1976 by a long way".

The researchers are still compiling the exact statistics but the findings are

say that the ground across large areas little to boost reservoirs, rivers and echoed in figures, released yesterday of southern and eastern England is underground suppplies. A spokesman by the Envirionment Agency, on soil

moisture deficits. These assess how dry the ground is and how much rain is needed to soak the earth sufficiently to allow rainfall to penetrate down to underground boreholes and aquifers.

Last year the deficit in the Anglian region on April 24 was 50mm but this has increased this year to 71mm of rain now. In the Thames region 32 mm of rain were needed at the same time in 1996 to soak the ground sufficiently to boost underground supplies. The amount needed has risen to 85mm.

> Subsidence fears, page 2 Forecast, page 26

The battle switches to cost of pensions

By JILL SHERMAN AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

JOHN MAJOR declared yesterday that he would quit politics rather than scrap the state pension as his increasingly bitter personal war with Tony Blair dominated elect-

ioneering. But as Labour was accused of a coldly calculated cam-paign to frighten the voters. the Conservatives were forced to admit to so far undisclosed start-up costs of billions of pounds for the new privatised system announced seven

Party sources admitted that there would be up to nine years from the start of the scheme before big savings were made from equalising the age of the basic state

The Times on the Internet

tp://www.the-times.co.uk

pension to 65.Accumulative costs would mount up to £5 billion-E7 billion in the early stages and ministers last night admitted that the initial cost would have to be covered by economic growth and fiscal

The findings by The Times were seized on by Labour last night as fresh ammunition for its charge that the Conserva-tives could not show how the new scheme could work.Mr Major denied that he would ever be party to damaging the state pension. When it was put to him that right-wingers such as John Redwood or Michael Portillo might seek to do so, Mr Major said: "If anybody in Continued on page 2, col 5

Judge attacks CWS bidder's dishonesty

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

electricity pylon beside the A JUDGE in the High Court yesterday severely criticised the conduct of the 31-year-old Before balloting begins 45,000 polling stations and entrepreneur Andrew Regan in his abortive £1.2 billion bid 600 counting centres will be screened and extra police will for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Mr Justice Gavin Lightman said it represented a "serious, gross and wilful breach of confidence" and was

"clearly dishonest" The judge added: "It was inevitable that this bid would be stopped as soon as it became apparent that it was based on iniquitous conduct." He ordered that CWS's legal costs be paid on a punitive "indemnity" basis by Mr Regan, his partner David Lyons, their companies Gali-

leo and Lanica Trust, and

Allen Green, a CWS executive

suspended last week. Mr Green has admitted passing commercially sensitive documents to Mr Regan and his associates and was videotaped doing so by a surveillance team CWS. Mr Justice Lightman upheld an earlier order that none of the material obtained from Mr Green be used by Mr

Regan or his associates. Graham Melmoth, chief executive of the CWS, said yesterday that the society was determined to remain independent, adding that what had occurred "strikes at the heart of the City".

Raider to pay, page 27

Lessons for fathers in their sons' schooling

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

FATHERS must become more involved in their sons' education if the widening gender gap in examination performance is to be closed, leading

teachers said yesterday.

A booklet published by the Secondary Heads Association says that boys and girls must be taught in different ways and sets out a range of options for schools, including single-sex teaching. With girls outperforming boys at every stage of schooling, the heads said at the launch of a programme to tackle the problem: "There can be no quick fixes." Peter Downes, the retired head teacher of Hinchingbrooke School,

near John Major's home outside Huntingdon, said girls were now so far ahead that if the Prime Minister's vision of a grammar school in every town came to fruition, they would be dominated by girls. "The grammar schools would be full of girls and the secondary moderns full of boys. We

would be creating ghettoes. Mr Downes, a former SHA president who wrote the booklet with an education consultant and three other head teachers, said that a typical 14year-old boy could concentrate for four to five minutes, compared with lifteen minutes for a girl. Schools had to take account of such differences.

Mr Downes said boys required more

direct contact with the teacher and frequent testing. In his own school, their requirements were addressed seriously only when he threatened to introduce single-sex classes. He had delivered a blunt, old-fashioned message about doing better at a series of boys-only assemblies and had focused extra attention on boys who did poorly

in mock examinations. Other schools featured in the booklet, Can boys do better?, had tried setting short-term targets for boys. appointing pastoral assistants to idenunderachievement and introducing more rewards for success.

Four schools in Devon which launched their own study of under-

achievement found that staff were not as rigorous with boys as with girls, extending deadlines for work, having lower expectations and accepting poorer behaviour and presentation. Boys gained "street-cred" by not working and could not handle praise for their work, living on a mythology that there would be jobs for them whatever their

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the poor performance of many boys was one of the most important issues for schools. The Government had introduced measures to drive up standards among low achievers, with boys in

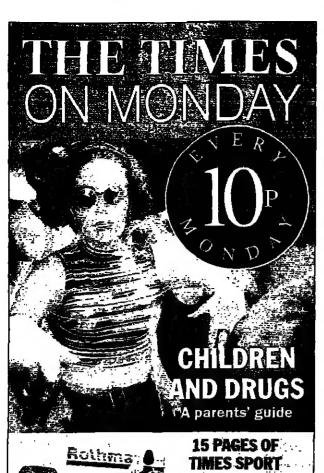
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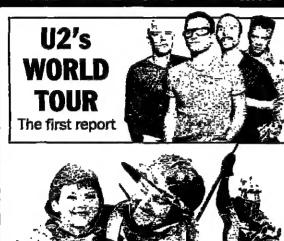
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Polling stations to be screened for explosives

By Stewart Tendler, Daniel McGrory and Harvey Elliott

UNPRECEDENTED security plans for polling day were announced by the Home Office yesterday as the IRA again disrupted motorway traffic and set off bombs next to an electricity pylon beside the

Under the Government's security proposals. 45,000 polling stations and 600 counting centres will be screened before balloting begins the next Thursday. Extra police will be on guard and voters may have bags and packages

The security announcement was made as West Midlands police announced that two small bombs had exploded at the foot of a 100ft pylon by the M6, close to junction IQA near Walsall, in the rush hour. Last night a ten-mile stretch of the busiest section of motorway in Europe remained closed but Nottinghamshire police opened sections of the Mi. which had closed during another alert. Luton Airport was also shut for six hours after a bomb warning.

West Midlands police said the bombs each weighed about 2lb, and could have had "horrendous implications." Police had not cleared the area because of an imprecise coded warning and the pylon might have fallen on the road or hit flats and an old people's

Yesterday - the fifth day of disruption since the start of the election campaign — the Home Office said a four-page security circular was being sent to all local government election officials. It said security was being stepped up out of prudence because of the IRA's current campaign of disruption and not because of specific intelligence. Many returning officers responsible for balloting, and presiding officers who oversee counts, have contacted the Home Office for advice.

The circular says if effective security screening is organised by officials and police, major disruption such as an evacuation should not be necessary. Police will evaluate bomb threats in order to allow over until the following day. the electoral process to continue uninterrupted unless this would pose a clear risk to public safety.

If travel is disrupted, return-

ing officers will treat the problem like an accident or a rail crash and continue with polling. If a polling station has to be evacuated then the advice is that the presiding officer should try to continue the voting in a temporary location if the electoral equipment can be moved safely. The Home Office say that the minimum required to continue polling should be the ballot box, ballot papers, the marked register, official stamp and the stationery necessary to pro-cess and record votes.

If the ballot box cannot be moved, then the police have to guard the polling station and stop anyone entering until the security threat is over

Officials say that if disruption is so significant that a significant number of voters do not have the opportunity to vote, then it should be held

The IRA's rolling pro-gramme of disruption returned to the Midlands just after 7.30am yesterday with a

coded warning. At one stage New Street Station and surrounding streets in Birm-ingham city centre were closed. Eventually police closed the M6 between junction 8 at Wednesbury and junction 11 at Cheslyn Hay. Adjoining sections of the M54 and the M5 junction were also closed.

The first of the bombs at the pylon exploded at about 8,30am and there was a secand explosion five minutes later. Later Army experts carried out a controlled explosion at the pylon.

Tim Brain. Assistant Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said: "From everything that we've learnt today and in the past the terrorists are reckless about loss of life and injury and they are out to. through various methods. cause confusion to the security services and members of the

from the house in order not to

cause subsidence damage.

Direct Line advised that

oaks should be 18 metres away

and some insurance firms

claimed the safe distance was 30 metres, he said. "But this is

the maximum distance at

which damage has occurred.

The truth is that 50 per cent of

claims due to oaks are from

trees just 9.5 metres away.

Thirty metres is the absolute

A spokesman for Direct Line said that its figures were

Bookmakers sued for lottery-style game

The National Lottery organiser is to take out a private prosecution against bookmakers who promote 49's, a lottery-style game available in betting shops. Camelot says that 49's is an illegal lottery likely to inflict losses on its own game and the causes it supports. The move comes after the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to take action against 49's, set up by Ladbrokes, Coral and William Hill

with a daily draw in their shops. The DPP decided that the game, with an estimated £3 million weekly turnover, was a fixed-odds betting game and therefore legal, even though it relied on the outcome of a chance event. Two attempts by Camelot to seek a judicial review of the DPP's ruling were turned down by the High Court which ruled that the only proper remedy apprivate prosecution. William Hill said: "49's is not a lottery. A lottery operates on a pool principle — you cannot know how much you stand to win in advance. But with 49's if you back a bet that stands you to win £100,000 then everybody who placed the same bet wins £100,000."

Teaching college closes

A teacher training college in Hampshire has become the first to be closed for poor standards after being criticised by successive inspections. La Sainte Union College, Southampton, will lose accreditation at the end of the summer term. Its 850 trainees will be allowed to finish their courses and about 250 students due to start in September have been offered places at colleges in Winchester and Chichester. Southampton University said it would run a new college on the site based on its department of adult continuing education and La Sainte's non-teacher courses.

Phone user convicted

A driver who was using his mobile telephone while at the wheel was found guilty yesterday of causing death by dangerous driving. Peter Mill, 35, who denied the charge, was convicted after the jury at Reading Crown Court heard that he was listening to messages on his telephone leading up to the crash. He hit a vehicle being driven by Geoffrey Murray, who was killed. Sentencing was adjourned until next month. The RAC is revising its advice to its members, telling them not to use a mobile phone while driving, because it is a dangerous distraction.

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Right-wing

magazine is

racist trash.

says judge

Me 1222 -

for any

Newspaper cleared

The Lord Chief Justice. Lord Bingham, and two other judges yesterday cleared The Independent of contempt of court in its coverage of an arms-to-Iraq court case. The Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, had applied to have the newspaper's publishers fined and its former Editor, lan Hargreaves, and senior reporter, Chris Blackhurst, committed to jail. He had accused them of breaching a judge's direction restricting the use of secret documents which helped to overturn the convictions of four men connected with the company Ordtech Ltd.

Open house for walkers

A High Court judge yesterday restored a right of way through a new house in Westbury. Wiltshire, even though the old path had been rerouted. Philip and Stephanie Stunnell, who had named the house Rambler's Rest because of the old path, said the ruling left them in a difficult situation as they would have to give walkers access to the house if they demanded it. Francis Morland, a local campaigner who brought the action, said he was making a point for walkers and did not intend to use the right of way.

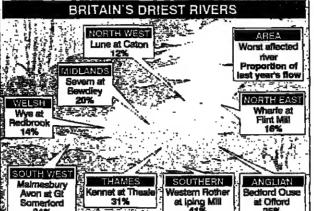
How to avoid drought subsidence

BY NICK NUTTALL

HOMEOWNERS whose houses are built on clay soils are advised to water garden trees and prune them back throughout the drought in an attempt to keep subsidence at bay. Insurance companies said yesterday that claims for cracks and damage had al-ready risen by 12 per cent this year after three years of dry lan Brett-Pitt, of Direct Line,

urged gardeners to cut back old trees and plant new ones away from buildings. "Depending on the amount of rainfall between now and September, all the signs are that subsidence is likely to remain a significant issue this

Giles Biddle, a former adviser to the National House Builders Council and the Department of the Environment, said that watering a tree reduced the risk_of its roots sucking the ground dry and triggering ground movements



tions. But he said, that watering had to be maintained as it also encouraged

Watering will supply water for the tree and minimise the amount of movement. But it encourage roots - to

That's fine if you carry on watering. But if you go away for two weeks in August, or

hosepipe ban, then it could aggravate the problem."

Bathwater could be used during water shortages. he added, and house owners going on holiday should ask someone to continue watering while they were away.

Dr Biddle said that the

problem was confined to clay soils and many insurance companies were exaggerating

based on insurance claims, but also from advice from the Jodreli laboratory at Kew. Concern over trees and subsidence comes with the release yesterday of figures from the

extreme."

Environment Agency showing rivers running unseasonally low. In the Anglian region the Bedford Ouse at Offord is at 22 per cent of its normal flow compared with 87 per cent at the same time last year. In the Midlands the Severn at Bewdley is at 21 per cent of its normal flow compared to 104





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Lesbian film wins go-ahead at cinemas

A FILM exploring self-mutilation and graphic lesbian sex is to be released in Britain (Dalya Alberge writes). The British Board of Film Censors has awarded an 18-plus certificate to Female Perversions, just weeks after it approved Crash, about supposed sexual gratification from car crashes.

The main character in Female Perversions is a bisexual high-powered lawyer

called Eve who has "wild sexual fanta-sies". She is played by the British actress Tilda Swinton, who most recently, starred as "a silent, breathing effigy", sleeping for seven days in a glass case at the Serpentine Gallery. The film is based on Louise J. Kapian's book. Female Perversions: The Temptations of Emma Bovary, inspired by a lecture she delivered to psychoanalysts on whether women were

the distributors. The Feature Film Company, acknowledged that it is "not an easy film" and that several people had "walked out in disgust" at screenings; others had been "moved to tears".

Margaret Ford, BBFC deputy director, said: "It's a cerebral film which isn't perhaps for all audiences. Everything you see has meaning. It's not to titillate."

Pensions

Continued from page 1 my Cabinet actually prevailed in an argument, I would not only leave Downing Street, I would leave politics and I would call a general election. There is no question whatsoever that any Conservative Cabinet would countenance

proposals like this." However. Labour came under fire from groups representing the elderly over the party's scaremongering tac-tics, which were described as

despicable. Help the Aged said it had received "a significant" number of calls from pensioners asking whether their pensions be abolished or cut. would Mervyn Kohler, head of pub-lic affairs, said: "It is a terror tactic. It is quite unforgiveable that any political party should actually seek to frighten

Mr Blair refused throughout the day to withdraw his charges that the Tories were set on abolishing the state system, and it was confirmed by senior Labour sources that canvassers were being actively encouraged to raise the issue on the doorsteps.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow

Chancellor, said it was a known fact that the "Conservative plan is to abolish the state pension, replacing the basic state pension with privately purchased provision". He also queried the suggestion in the proposals that, as well as new entrants to the world of work beginning to contribute to the new scheme after the election, "it might be possible to bring older people into the scheme at a later date if public finances permitted".

Both Mr Brown and Mr Blair questioned the source of funding: costs of £300 billion over 40 years would be in-curred but the plan to remove tax relief from pension contributions under the new scheme would net only £150 billion.





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Video camera captured neighbour who resorted to sabotage to keep up appearances

'Mrs Bucket' learns the cost of a touch of glass

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A STATE OF THE STA

JOSEPHINE Bradbury was counting the cost of keeping up appearances yesterday after she was caught by a video camera sprinkling glass on a neighbour's driveway to deter him parking his pick-up truck in her respectable street.

The whole unfortunate epi-sode proved very trying for Bradbury, who runs the Bramhall Manor Hotel in Bramhall, Cheshire, and who like Hyacinth Bucket (pro-nounced "Bouquet") played by Patricia Routledge in the BBCI series - wanted only to keep the neighbourhood around her guesthouse up to

Bradbury, 68, was galvanised into action when Keith Palmer, head of an engineering firm, his wife, Emma, 34, and daughter Abi-gail, 5, moved in to a fourbedroom detached house opposite two years ago. Bradbury thought the house was like a "transit camp with all the coming and going". In the spirit of Keeping up Appearances, something drastic had to be done.

Mrs Palmer told Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester: "The first time I came across Mrs Bradbury was when I parked my BMW in the drive to collect my house keys. She first said this was a nice area then asked us what vehicles we drove.

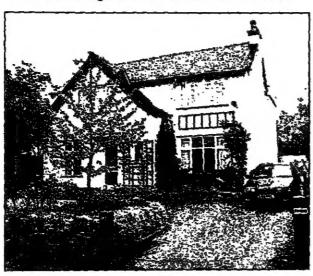
I said we had the BMW plus my husband's works truck but she said he would have to park it somewhere else because it wasn't in keeping with the area. He only ever parked it there on Sunday and that was because there was no parking restriction at that time of the week."

"Later Mrs Bradbury approached me when I went into the village and she said my roses needed pruning. She even complained to my husband about our automatic security light going on and

began noticing piles of glass at the spot where Mr Palmer normally parked his truck. The couple assumed children charged with causing a dan-



Keith and Emma Palmer, who had a video camera installed after glass was found on their drive, below



were to blame, but became concerned when glass started appearing three or four times a week. On the advice of an environmental health officer, they set up a video camera at the upstairs bedroom window to catch the culprit. They were astonished when the video captured Mrs Bradbury, not once but twice.

"It did not occur to me at all that it was her that was doing this." Mrs Palmer said.

Judge Geake dismissed Bradbury's appeal against Stockport magistrates' verdict last December and ordered her to pay a further £124 in costs in addition to a 12-month conditional discharge and £87 costs imposed by the magistrates. Bradbury had been

ger to other road users Dressed flamboyantly in a black suit, black hat with a blue bow tied into the back of her long brown hair, Bradtold the court: The



Pat "Bucket" Routledge

transit camp — something always coming and going. But I was not bothered about the pick-up truck being parked there. Why should I be?

"On the day in question 1 had been sweeping up after having my hedge pruned and I saw a tom cat which had been a nuisance to my own female cats and rabbits. 1 walked across the road, chucked a pebble at it and said 'shoo' and he ran off. Unfortunately he was killed

After watching the video,
Judge Geake said: "In our
experience neighbours' disputes spin over and we are quite certain there was some-thing of a background in this

Mrs Palmer described the episode as dreadful and trau-

She said: "We had both worked hard to buy this house because we fell in love with it when we first saw it. At first we said it was the house of our dreams. We weren't banking on a nightmare neighbour."

We felt we had to take action because people could have injured with all this broken glass lying around. I take my daughter and some of her friends to school. Anyone of them could have been cut if they fell into it. Since we reported Mrs Bradbury the glass-dropping has stopped."

Bradbury complained last night that she was pitched into the appeal hearing without adequate preparation. She claimed she had never been allowed to see the video evidence. She maintained that the allegations were "totally untrue". "Using a video, that is dodgy to say the least," she said. "I am seeking Legal Aid to pursue a case for damages.

Bradbury added: "Quite frankly, when the police turned up I thought they were joke policemen, like some-thing out of a Jeremy Beadle show. I didn't know anything about glass. I didn't know the Palmers and I don't want to know them. I have lost time, money and Christ knows what else. The legal system is



Video star: Josephine Bradbury, owner of the Bramall Manor Hotel, below



Next time somebody tries to

decide

Hijacked post office van used in £2m robbery

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

MASKED gunmen escaped with more than £2 million after using a hijacked post office van in a "Trojan horse" raid on a Royal Mail sorting office. Police are hunting at least four men, believed to have handguns, who robbed the regional distribution depot in Redhill, Surrey.

Two employees who had been in the stolen van were kept hostage as the gang took more than 20 sacks containing cash, stamps and other items Five other staff were forced into an office fitted with a time lock. A locksmith had to be called to free them.

The haul was driven away and transferred nearby to two white Transit vans, a white Ford Escort XR3 and an olive green Rover.

The gang had bypassed closed-circuit television cameras and coded locks. The hostages were found by police after a telephone call from a passer-by who had seen the vehicle being dumped.

Detective Superintendent Bill Harding, who is leading the inquiry, declined to say how the gang had bypassed the security systems at the depot, or whether the robbery was thought to have involved

an inside accomplice.

He said: The whole incident was over within 20 minutes. It was very quick. The two people taken hostage were extremely shaken up, but received only minor injuries after being bound. No shots were fired during the whole

"Where the offenders went is not known and we are still investigating how they gained access into the sorting office. When they got into the building they threatened to shoot staff if they did not cooperate."

An incident room was set up and officers were making enquiries near where the van was dumped.

The Post Office refused to comment on the incident, but it was believed that union officials would be calling for action and an explanation as to how staff could be threatened in such an apparently secure facility.

Right-wing magazine is racist trash, says judge

By A STAFF REPORTER

A JUDGE said yesterday that he had never felt as uncomfortable as when leafing through racist "trash" published by a defendant.

Judge Butler had asked to see a copy of Stormer. a magazine published by an extreme right-wing group. He said: "It's absolutely chilling. I've rarely felt more uncomfortable than sitting in this seat flicking through that

The publication was one of hundreds seized by police at the home of Mark Atkinson. 31, a refuse collector, of Egham, Surrey, Judge Butler said: "My instincts tell me he should go straight into custody, but that would not be the correct judicial process." In-stead, he bailed Arkinson to live at a secret address until being sentenced at the end of a co-accused's trial, which is due

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to start in September.

Atkinson pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court. south London, to publishing two issues of Stormer, seized last May, which were threatening, abusive and insulting, intending to stir up racial hatred or whereby racial hatred was likely to be served.

He denied two charges of conspiring with another man to distribute threatening, abusive and insulting material and possessing the material with a view to distribution.

Commuter risks prison for right to smoke on train

A COMMUTER pledged to go on defying a train company's smoking ban yesterday, just moments after a High Court judge ordered him to obey the

Peter Boddington, 43, has flouted the policy on Connex South Central services be-tween London and his home in Brighton for four years, and now risks jail. Outside court. he drew on a cigarette and declared that he would light up as normal, in his favourite spot in the buffet car, on his way home last night.

The French-owned train company obtained an injunction at the High Court after Mr Boddington - who owns Tooting Market in south London, where he runs a cutprice tobacco stall - refused to give up voluntarily. He is



Boddington: candidate

BY ADRIAN LEE

standing for Parliament in Tooting to highlight his cause. He is a 60-a-day smoker and

gets through an average of six cigarettes on each journey. He argues that a 1962 bylaw allowing the regulation of smoking on trains was never meant to amount to a total

A commuter for 25 years, Mr Boddington, a bachelor, has never held a driving licence and holds a £2,460 season ticket. Connex said the purchase of the ticket bound him to follow its rules, including the ban introduced by British Rail in 1993.

He has already been fined £10 under criminal law for breaking the ban and is appealing to the House of Lords. He was arrested again last week. He managed to endure 22 hours in court without a cigarette, later antibuting his temperance to a sore throat.

Michael Beloff, QC, for Connex, said the smoking policy was for the safety, health and convenience of other passengers. Mr Justice Ferris imposed an injunction until the House of Lords hears the criminal case.

Afterwards, Mr Boddington, supported by the smokers group Forest, said his legal costs had reached £20,000 but he would fight on: "Whether I go to prison is up to Connex. I will carry on smoking on the

Mother of disruptive boy jailed for threats

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A MOTHER whose disruptive son nearly provoked a teachers' strike was jailed for three years yesterday for threaten-

ing to kill a housing officer. Rita Wilding, 35, mounted a terror campaign against Gerald Bunting, whom she had earlier assaulted so badly, by pushing him down stairs, that he had to retire early.

The campaign included 72 threatening telephone calls and culminated in her knocking on Mr Bunting's door and telling him: "We've come to burn you." One of her sons then sprayed Mr Bunting with what he thought was petrol, but was in fact lernonade.

Sentencing her at Nottingham Crown Court, the Re corder, Alistair MacDuff, QC. said: "You have stepped into the witness box and told breathless lies. Society must be protected from people like you."
Wilding had targeted Mr
Bunting after hearing comments he made on a television

programme about violent women. She blamed him for the death of her husband. Philip, 57, from a heart attack. Teachers at Glaisdale school. Nottingham, threatened to strike last year if they were forced to teach Richard Wilding, then 13, who was expelled for violent and dis-

sell you a personal pension, ask them these tough questions. BY DAVID CHARTER Are your charges among the

lowest in the business? Some pension companies could take almost a fifth of your retirement fund in charges". Virgin Direct's charges are amongst

the lowest in the industry.

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Chef's ex-wife wins £10,000 for libel

By A STAFF REPORTER

KATALIN BLANC, the former wife of the chef Raymond Blanc, yesterday accepted libel damages believed to be in excess of £10,000 at the High Court. The damages follow a claim in The Observer that she contributed to a stroke her extended to a stroke her exte husband suffered and subjected him to

constant psychoanalysis. Mme Blanc's counsel, Rupert Elliott, told Mr Justice Morland that the article last July was based on an interview with M Blanc, in which he spoke about the breakdown of his marriage.

He had given the interview despite the fact that he and his wife, a psychotherapist, had given court undertakings not to

discuss the topic. The article reported certain statements made by Mr Blanc about the stroke which he had suffered in 1991 in the course of his marriage to the plaintiff, suggesting that it had been the plaintiff who had contributed to his stroke or was to blame for it," Mr Elliott

The article also reported comments which he made about the way in which he had been treated by the plaintiff and his allegations that she had subjected

him to constant psychoanalysis."

Mr Ellion said that the article had caused Mme Blanc, of Oxford, enormous distress because she considered she had been portrayed as an insensitive woman who, through constant and obsessive

psychoanalysis of her husband, had contributed to his suffering a stroke. "As a psychotherapist whose function

it is to be sensitive and caring with her patients and discreet and confidential in relation to their affairs, she felt that these reported allegations portrayed her as a person who was wholly unfit to practise as a psychotherapist. Moreover, these allegations were, all of them, entirely untrue and have caused her considerable embarrassment both personally and professionally." Mr Elliott said.

Richard Dickinson, for The Observer, said the newspaper apologised for the inferences drawn from its report. It had agreed to pay "significant" damages and Mme Blanc's legal costs.

Pharmacists issue heart warning over second hay fever drug

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SAFETY fears about another hay fever drug were raised yesterday after the Government's announcement that a range of popular remedies is to be made available by

prescription only.

Over-the-counter sales of 11 treatments containing the drug terfenadine, including Triludan and Aller-Eze Clear, are to be banned by the Committee on Safety of Medicines because of concern about its effect on the heart.

Yesterday the Royal Pharmaceutical Society said that two other popular brands, Pollon-Eze and Hismanal, should be removed from shop shelves because they may also cause heart problems. However, the Committee of Safety

of Medicines said that astemizole. the active ingredient in the two remedies, posed a much lower risk than terfenadine.

Fourteen deaths in Britain have been associated with terfenadine since its introduction in 1982. Since 1992 users have been advised not to take it at the same time as antibiotic and antifungal medicines.

Research in America has shown that one 60mg tablet can affect the heart rhythm. The US Food and Drug Administration announced in January that it intended to withdraw approval for terfenadine after reports that it had been responsible for at least 17 deaths and 40 heart attacks there.

The Committee on Safety of

Treatments to be taken with caution

The following brands contain terfenadine: Triludan. Triludan Forte. Aller-Eze Clear. Boots Antihistamine Tablets, Hay Fever Relief Antihistamine Tablets and One-a-Day Antihistamine Tablets, Histafen, Seldane, Terfenor, Terfex and Terfinax. Many other allergy drugs are not covered by the

latest decision. However, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has advised chemists not to sell astemizole without warning that it could affect heart rhythm.

Some brands of hay fever products require a

Medicines will begin the consultown-brand products are among the ation process for making terfena-11. The store has instructed staff to dine a prescription-only medicine tell customers about the risk and to on April 28. Chemists began taking advise them to use other tablets. the treatments off their shelves nasal sprays and eye drops to yesterday, but they will still be available on request. Two Boots

control symptoms. About nine million people suffer

from pollen allergy. Dr Martyn Partridge, chief medical adviser to the National Asthma Campaign. said anyone concerned about their drugs should consult their doctor or talk to their pharmacist to obtain

individual advice. The Committee

prescription, but many are available over the

counter. Those based on loratadine and cetirizine do

not cause drowsiness. Those that can cause drowsi-

Terfenadine drugs should not be used by patients

suffering from cardiac or liver disease. The

recommended dose of 120mg daily in adults must be

grapefruit juice, it should not be used at the same observed. Apart from not taking the drug with

e as a number of antifungal or antibiotic drugs.

ness contain chlorpheniramine.

on Safety of Medicines said that it would keep the astemizole-based drugs under review. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society said yesterday: "We are telling our members to take charge of the sales themselves so they can advise the public of potential adverse

The hay fever season has started early this year because of the low rainfall and warm weather. The National Asthma Campaign is to open its pollen line on Monday, a

The pollen count is to be updated each day at llam, with regional and national forecasts from sampling stations across the country. The number is 0171 971 0444.

☐ Grapefruit juice can be dangerous if taken with certain types of

discovery was made accidentally after research on drug-test volunteers in America, who were not breaking down the drugs as rapid-

ly as was expected so too much went into the bloodstream. The one thing the volunteers had in common was the grapefruit juice given to them for breakfast. The juice was analysed and found to contain a chemical called psorales. not known to exist in anything else,

including the whole fruit.

The chemical inhibits the enzymes in the liver and intestine stopping them breaking down terienadine, so that it enters the bloodstream. Terfenadine is dangerous to people with cardiac defects and high levels in the blood could kill them.

Discovery of giant planet suggests other Earths exist

SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN astronomers have discovered a giant planet in orbit around a star that is very similar to our Sun.

The planet, the size of Jupiter, orbits a star called Rho Coronae Borealis in the Northern Crown constellation. The planet's surface temperature is at least 300C. much too hot for water to exist as a liquid, and therefore very unlikely to harbour life.

It may, however, be part of a solar system like ours. "There could well be many smaller planets in these systems that we just can't see by present techniques," said Dr Robert Noyes, of the Smithsonian. Institution's Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Current techniques are not sophisticated enough to pick up smaller Earth-like planets. but the discovery of giant planets like this one reinforces the conviction that they must exist. "It's exciting to think that there may be many smaller planets much more like the Earth in orbit around these stars," Dr Noyes said.

Planets around distant stars cannot be seen, even with the most powerful telescope, as any light reflected from them is drowned by the much more powerful light of the star:





Diagram shows the night sky in the latitude of London at 21.00hrs towards the end of the month. Map should be turned so that the

Their presence must be deduced from small variations. or wobbles, in the motion of the star caused by the planet orbiting around it.

The American team, from the Smithsonian, the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder. Colorado, and Pennsylvania State University, used a spectrograph mounted on a 1.5metre telescope at the Lawrence Whipple Observazona. They chose Rho Coronae Borealis, which is 50 light years away, because it is similar to the Sun.

After monitoring it for 11 months, the team concluded that the speed varied back and forth by about 150mph over 40 days, and from that, and the star's size, they calculate the planet must be slightly more massive than Jupiter and or-

bits the star every 40 days.

The short orbital period means that the planet must be close to the star, about a quarter of the distance beween Earth and the Sun. That in turn implies that the temperature at the surface of the planet must be about 300C.

Dr Timothy Brown, of NCAR, who designed the spectrograph, says: "All the giant planets found so far orbit Sun-like stars. Rho Coronae Borealis is another one of these, but it appears to be about ten billion years old — twice as old as the Sun."

The unsolved mystery is why such massive planets should form so close to their parent stars. Current theories of the birth of the solar system suggest that large planets could form only a long way from stars. The whole picture of solar-system formation needs to be looked at airesh in the light of these new planet discoveries," Dr Noyes said.



Rowers to vote on women members

BY ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S premier rowing club must decide tomorrow whether to allow women to become members.

A £1.5 million National Lottery grant rides on the decision by the 179-year-old Leander Club at Henley-on-Thames, which numbers the Olympic gold medallists Stephen Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent among its members. The club, which is a focal point of the Royal Regatta, is planning a £2.3 million redevelopment, but a condition of the grant is that women be allowed as full members. A special general meeting has been called for tomorrow at which the club's

members will vote on a proposed change in the rules. Leander has 2,800 members. including associates, but only the 2,200 who have achieved the rowing standard required for full membership will be able

Anonymous letters have been sent to local newspapers and radio stations claiming that most members do not want women to be allowed in, but the club officers dismiss these as "mischievous

John Beveridge, the honorary secre-tary, said yesterday he was sure the overriding majority of members were in favour of admitting women, but added: "We need a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Usually we have only 50 or so members attending, but we already know that about 300 are coming, and there may be many more. We think those we know are coming are generally in favour, but there could be an ambush If we do not carry the vote first time, we will still have some months to try again.

Mr Beveridge pointed out that members' wives and widows were already able to use the social facilities of the club and that women's crews regularly boated from the clubhouse as guests. "We do not have proper facilities to accommodate women rowers regularly," he said, "but that is one problem the redevelopment programme would take care of."

Gamekeeper cleared of cruelty after shooting cat

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A GAMEKEEPER WORKING for one of the world's richest families was cleared yesterday of deliberately shooting and

blinding a family's pet cat:
Mark Fawcett, 18, a Youth
Training Scheme gamekeeper
on the 7,000-acre Bollihope estate in Co Durham, owned by the Maktoum family, the rulers of Dubai, had denied charges of carrying a loaded shotgun in a public place and causing unnecessary cruelty to the cat, named Sooty.

Mr Fawcett, who works with his father. Peter. 44, shook hands with wellwishers as he left Bishop Auckland Magistrates' Court, but refused to comment.

Mr Fawcett, from Frosterly, Co Durham, was charged after the cat was shot in a field: yards from its home last June. He said that he had been firing at a rabbit, and did not know that there was a eat in the field until after he had

He was cleared after the court was told that rabbit holes had been noticed by magistrates during a visit to

Tony Monkhouse, 54, the cat's owner, said that he had seen the shooting and had. found Sooty wriggling in ago? ny on the grass as Mr Fawcett drove off at speed. Sooty stillhas nine pieces of shot in its body and will have to have an eve removed.

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it is one of the many elegant outfits on

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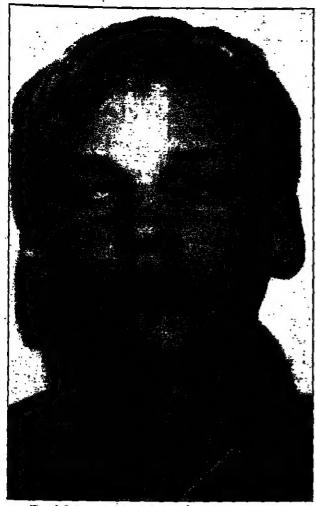
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Daniel Storey, 14: picked up 66 times by police

Teenage burglars had been arrested 155 times

TWO teenage burglars who targeted disabled and helppensioners to finance their drugs habit had been arrested 155 times as they roamed the streets of Portsmouth looking for victims.

Daniel Storey, 14, described by some of his victims as "angelic", had been picked up by police on 66 occasions in 22 years. Daniel March 17 years. Daniel Marsh, 17. had been arrested 49 times

over the same period.

As they pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to burgle and conspiracy to steal, Judge Selwood lifted the anonymity usually given to young offenders, saying their victims and the public had a right to know who had comnitted the crimes. He ordered them to be detained at a

Portsmouth Crown Court was told that the pair, arrogant and beyond parental control, roamed the city's and supermarkets seeking opportunities to pounce on pensioners who were alone. For their burglar-

ies, they selected houses where they knew the occu-pants were old and weak. In just over 18 months they committed 55 thefts and burglaries. They were also linked to at least 30 thefts committed last summer in Cosham High Street when they snatched

purses from elderly people. Police following thent once heard them planning to am-bush an old woman who was confined to a wheelchair. Storey was heard to say to



Sutton: pair stole his jewellery collection

Marsh: "We will have to wait until she is on her own so we can get closer to her."

They also strolled into a

health centre and helped themselves to video equipment and cameras worth £1,700. Another victim, James Sut-

ton, had been out of his flat for only an hour when the pair squeezed through a small window and stole the jewellery collection he had built up with his wife. Mr Sutton, who suffers from emphysema, had recently buried his wife and was so distressed by the incident he had to spend three weeks in hospital.

He welcomed the sentences erday, adding: "What they did was a bitter pill for me. They also stole all my Christmas presents and wrote off the festive season for me." He added:"I think it was right they shoud be named to warn things these youngsters do." Sentencing Storey, of

Marsh, of Buckland, to five years, the judge said: This catalogue of offences to which

you have pleaded guilty shows a complete disregard for the public, for individuals and for the law. It is all too clear to me that on a number of occasions you chose soft targets carefully."

His decision to name the pair was welcomed by PC Rob Clarke, who led the investigation. He said: "It is about time the public were made aware of just who is behind these sorts of crimes and how young they are. In a majority of cases people don't believe how a boy as young as Storey has the gall to commit these sort of offences."

Storey's mother, Jacqueline Ogilvie, who wept after he was sentenced, said she had been powerless to stop him entering a life of crime. "Where we live, if you're not one of the gang you get your head kicked in. I should have been harsher on him. Naturally I blame myself."

Ben Compton, for Storey, had told the court: "His appearance belies his age. The picture is one of a young man who is completely out of



Daniel Marsh, 17: five years at a secure institution

Passover guests are poisoned by mousse

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BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THIRTY people have been struck down by food poisoning after celebrating Passover and many more cases are expected among the Jewish community in north Manchester.

The victims of the salmonella bug all come from Whitefield and attended a celebration held on Monday evening, when the eight-day festival began. Three people, including a girl aged nine, are in hospital. Four members of one family have been bedridden; a woman, her father, her husband and her daughter were all in serious discomfort until they began to feel slightly better yesterday. The woman said she was awaiting results

All are believed to have served by an outside organisation, and began to suffer discomfort and diarrhoea

within 48 hours. Environmental health officers at Bury council believe that there could be as many as 400 cases. Samples are being analysed to determine the source of the outbreak.

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Sugar levels not declared on most food labels

BY ROBIN YOUNG

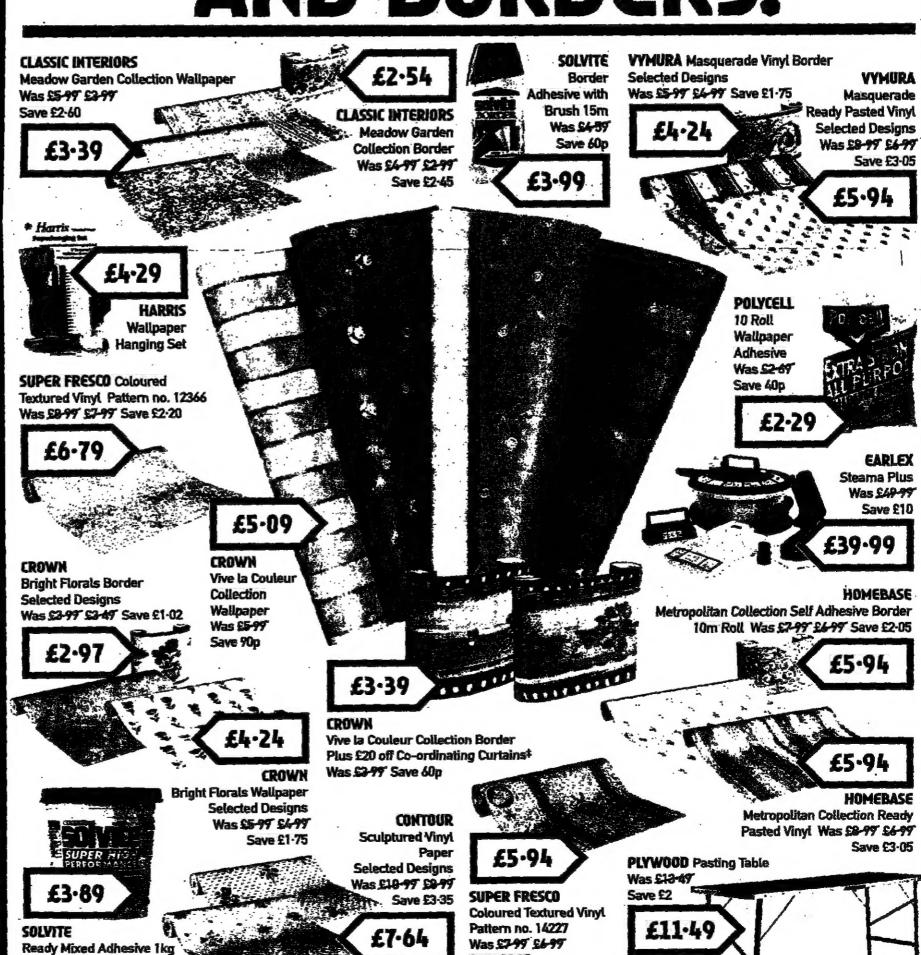
MORE than half of all sweetened food and drink products make no declaration on their packaging of the amount of sugar they contain, according to the largest survey to date of nutritional labelling.

Action & Information on Sugars, a voluntary network of health professionals, examined 1.350 products and awarded its golden carrot award", for the best contribution to health promotion in the field of sugar, to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which declares the sugar content on all its 3,000 own-label food and drinks.

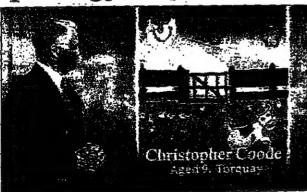
The network will present brand-by-brand reports on food and drink product labelling next month, but an-CWS adopted the "most constructive" approach.

Brands that did not declare their sugar content, it said, included all the main brands of soft drinks and confectionery. Manufacturers are not obliged under current law to publicise precise sugar

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BBC discovers child prodigy, 11 years late



ANY mother would be excited to see a drawing by her son on television (Tim Jones writes). But they wouldn't all be as puzzled as Diana Coode. BBC South West, which

uses drawings sent in by schoolchildren to illustrate its weather forecasts, chose one by her son, Christopher. But Christopher is a 20-year-old art student. He had sent in the drawing II years ago, when be was at Watcombe primary

school in Torquay.

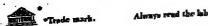
The station's weatherman, Craig Rich, said he recently cleared out his desk: "This is one of the funniest things that has happened to me in broadcasting. The picture must have been there for ten years and resurfaced when I cleared it out a couple of weeks ago."

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SAINSBURY'S HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES



Simon Sebag Montefiore meets Lord Winston

Labour's

fundamental problem is that they are concerned the Lords will delay their vital reforms.

Why change it when they've got nothing better to replace it

with? Hereditary peers may be untenable but they should let them burn out gradually

THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Ex-SAS man tried to sell guns to undercover police

A FORMER SAS sniper with a string of service decorations was jailed for three years yesterday for illegally supplying arms and ammunition to a man he believed to be an East End gang leader.

Robert Scott, who was in action during the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege, hoped the deal to provide a sub-machinegun and dumdum bullets would lead to lucrative legitimate training work. But the gang leader was an undercover policeman.

Judge Inman told Scott, who was arrested shortly after the Dunblane shootings, that, with his military background, he must have been aware of the danger to society of supplying guns to a "dangerous criminal it is a tragedy for someone like you to be involved in such a trade," he told Scott, 49, who had admitted two charges at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court.

David Spencer, 38, a former soldier with a distinguished record, who admitted handling a Vectra M4 submachine pistol, received an 18month sentence. The judge

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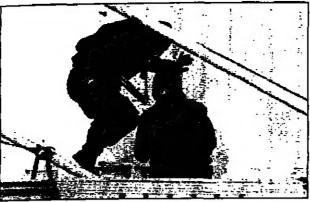
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Robert Scott took part in the Iranian Embassy operation

told Spencer, of Ashford, Kent: and was commended by the You, too, must have been aware of the horrendous dangers of allowing lethal weapons to circulate illegally."

In the dock with them was Christopher Hale, a former MI6 officer, who admitted supplying the policeman with a 32 Astra revolver and ammunition. He will be sen-

tenced next week. Hale, 57, of Southfields, southwest London, became friendly with Scott when they worked for the Security Services. He helped to invent a remote-control bomb defuser

homa City bombing. Scott, of Chobham, Surrey, spent ten years in Northern Ireland tracking terrorists for MI5 and Special Branch. He was also a stunt man, appearing in the Sylvester Stallone

US Government for his help

in the aftermath of the Okla-

film Cliffhanger.
The last survivor of the regiment's 1971 intake — the others all having died in action - Scott first saw action during the Oman campaign when he led raids behind enemy lines. By the early 1980s

he had become one of the SAS's parachute instructors. He regularly featured in the Guinness Book of Records for parachute jumps, always under false names.

The three men were arrested after undercover police faxed a "shopping list" for military guns. Two offi-cers, known as Robert Cooper and Billy, were put in touch with Scott by a businessman who used his shooting club in Bisley, Surrey. Cooper hinted that he could

provide legitimate army-style training work worth hundreds of thousands of pounds if Scott helped Billy. Scott also discussed the possible supply of sawn-off shotguns and, at one stage, advised how explosives could be used to blow off the back of another gang's

As Scott stood with his head bowed yesterday, the judge told him that, although his counsel had insisted he had been "badgered, pestered and pushed" into becoming involved by an undercover policeman posing as an "Arthur Daley-type" villain, he could easily have pulled out of the negotiations at any time.

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Fireman wins claim over racist

By A STAFF REPORTER

taunts

AN ASIAN fireman, who was continually mocked and called Gunga Din and then ignored by his colleagues for three years when he complained, won his claim for racial discrimination yesterday.

Warren Mann, a part-time fireman at Painswick, in Gloucestershire, told the tribunal that the ten-man crew would leave him behind as their char, wallah" when they answered emergency calls. Se-nior officers dismissed his complaints and Mr Mann, 34, said the other firefighters then "sent me to Coventry" for three years, shattering his

self-confidence. The fire officer who led the taunts, Brendan Gibbs, 53. has been suspended from duty. Gloucestershire Fire Brigade is to decide his future next week.

Mr Mann, who became a fireman in 1993, and also works part-time as a lorry driver, has returned to work at Painswick. He said yesterday: "I hope this decision will allow everyone to put what happened firmly into the past and start airesh."

At the brigade's Gloucester headquarters yesterday, divisional officer Adrian Clissold said: "We will not tolerate this sort of behaviour. We have to decide how we can rebuild morale among this crew. It is a possibility that some may be moved."

Colin Toomber, chairman of the Bristol tribunal, said he was "satisfied that the firefighters did make racist comments in the applicant's presence". The tribunal adourned its decision for a month on whether Mr Mann should receive compensation.

STEEL ST Youth in . court over death of girl aged 9

A 16-year-old youth appeared in court yesterday accused of causing the death of nine-year-old Teleri West, who was knocked down and killed by a stolen car outside her home. He faced eight charges, including dangerous driving, being over the alcohol limit, taking and driving away a vehicle, and driving while disqualified and without insurance. The youth, who had suffered a black eye, was remanded in custody until next Wednesday at Cardiff Youth Court

A stolen Vauxhall Nova struck Teleri as she played on the pavement with her neighbour, Sean Rogers, at Morganstown, Cardiff, on Wednesday evening. She was killed instantly. Sean, 14. suffered leg and hip injuries, and is in a satisfactory condition.

they tar

Abuser jailed

A former social worker who indecently assaulted boys in his care was jailed for two years at Manchester Crown Court. Thomas Bradley, 50, a father of two from Lytham. Lancashire, admitted four charges of indecent assault and one of making an indecent video of boys.

School bus crash

A minibus carrying children to school crashed, seriously injuring a boy aged 12 and ... three adults. The bus was taking 20 pupils to St Mark's High School in Castlewellan. Co Down, when it was in collision with a van. Five children were treated for cuts and bruises.

M25 case remand

Terrence Hole, 45, was remanded in custody until his trial in August by Maidstone Crown Court. He demes perventing the course of justice in relation to the murder of Stephen Cameron, who was stabbed to death at the M25 Swanley interchange in Kent last May.

Unequal law

Sixty-eight per cent of staff in the magistrates' courts system are female, but women and ethnic minorities make up only 7 per cent of senior administrators and clerks. says a survey by the Lord Chancellor's Department disclosed by the Association of Magisterial Officers.

Hit and run

A man sentenced to six months for assault by magistrates at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, made a run for it after being told to wait outside the court for security guards to collect him. Police and Group 4 both denied that Steven Burwood's escape was their responsibility.

Shell shock

A tortoise named Tom has laid three eggs at Disley. Cheshire. Fifteen platonic years with its companion. Dick ended soon after they woke up from hibernation. Tom has been renamed Tomboy, and the eggs are being incubated at Stockport Tortoise Sanctuary.

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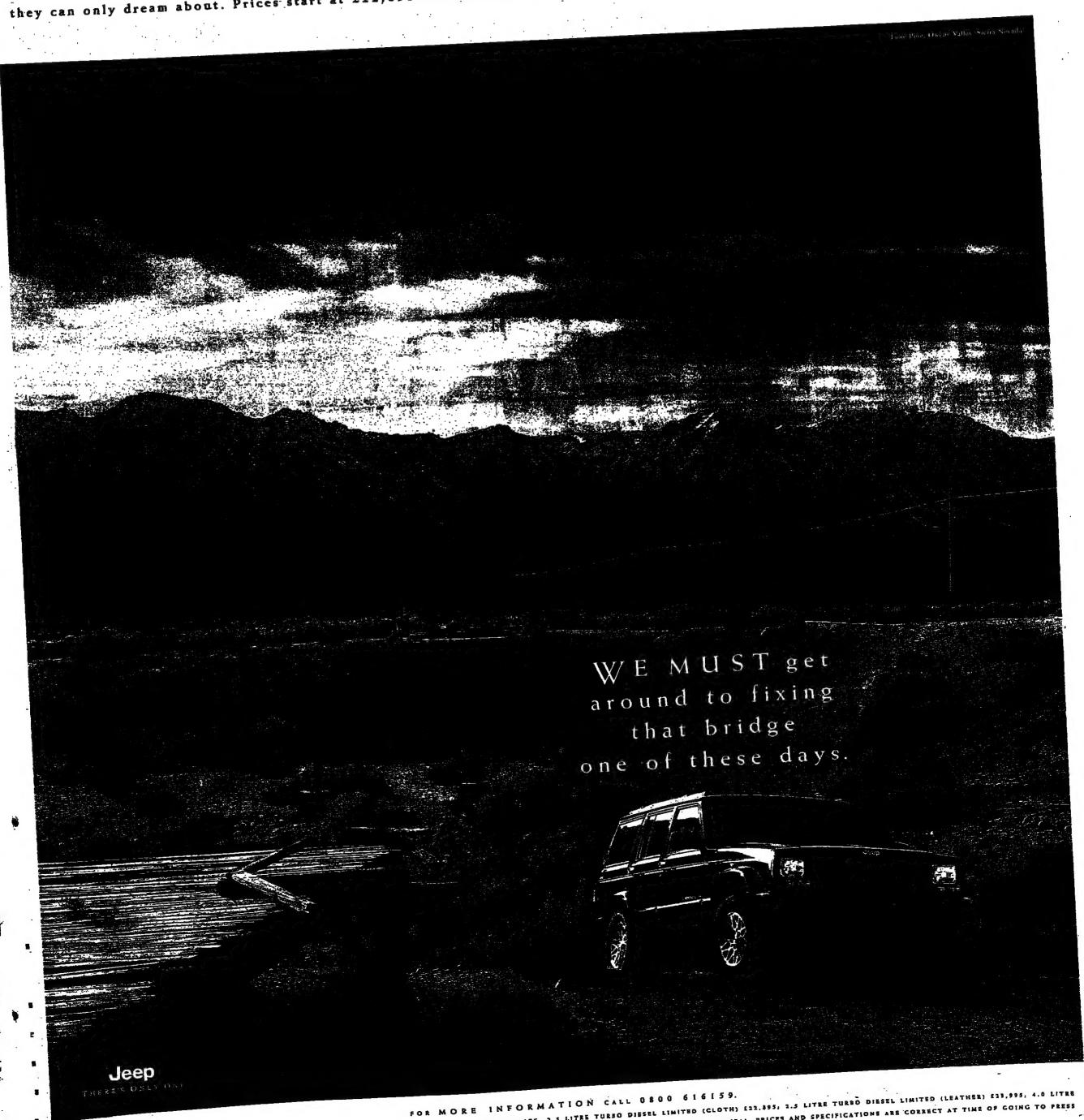
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Father and daughter guilty of obstruction as street sermon angered crowd

Brimstone preachers refused to cool down

STREET preachers claimed persecution vesterday after a father and daughter were found guilty of wilfully obstructing police while delivering a fire-and-brimstone message to shoppers. They said that they ultimately answered to a higher authority.

Bate and his daughter are both members of the Faith Magistrates at York were told that the crowd's reaction to their aggressive message youths had sprayed them with an aerosol, and there was fear that the situation could spiral out of control. Alan Bate, 51. and his daughter, Alison Redmond-Bate. 24. had refused police requests to move on.

Yesterday, after they were Gavin Jackson, 20, spent three given a one-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs, their solicitor, Malcolm Nowell, said they would consider an appeal. "These issues are so important they need to be heard in a higher in the city. court," he said.

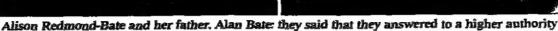
Rob McLean, another openair preacher from Manersey Bible College, Doncaster, said that the verdict was a blow to the many hundreds of preachers up and down the country. He said: "Preachers have not been convicted for anything like this for well over 100 years. We follow a higher authority. God's Word, and say what He tells us. We are being persecuted for our reli-

Ministries group from Leeds. In the past six months, a number of its followers have been arrested, but previously they had been released after a warning or made the subject of civil court orders excluding them from specified areas. Last month two of its members, Ian Duffield, 38, and

weeks in jail for breaking an order banning them from York. They had been arrested for obstruction on four occasions while shouting "Sinners" at drinkers leaving pubs In the latest case the two-

day trial was told that nearly 400 shoppers gathered by a fountain in the city centre to hear Bate, a mature electron-





ics student at Leeds University, and his daughter preachfire-and-brimstone messages about turning their backs on God.

Alan Mitcheson, for the prosecution, said that the crowd became unsettled and a group of youths had sprayed aerosol party string on them. Mr Bate was covered with it. There was a fear trouble could arise because the crowd

got hostile." Thomas Hughes, a city centre services officer, said that he called police after the preachers refused to tone down their aggressive style: "! asked Miss Redmond-Bate to ask her father if he could stop. but she said God was talking

possible to interrupt." Police said that Bate looked very aggressive, his face was "blood-red", he was shouting

through him and it was im-

at the top of his voice and marching in circles, waving his arms in the air. When he refused to move on, he was

arrested. Even after that he "unleashed a barrage of religious hype and highly charged twaddle", said one of the

Then Redmond-Bate began to shout. She ignored a warning that she too was inciting

the huge crowd and was also arrested.

Bate, of Moortown, Leeds, said that in the past few years God had told them to preach His message to the country. "He believes this nation is in great trouble," he said. His daughter, of Woodlesford. Leeds, said that she was told to go to York and "Preach at the fountain". They refused to comment on the verdict.

Joy at Church of Ireland resurrection

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDEN

THE Anglican church in Ireland has a rare success story on its hands in Dublin, where a church is being reconse-crated for the first time. St Catherine's in Thomas Street, in the south inner city. Was closed and deconsecrated 30 years ago because of dwindling numbers.

But the growth of another Dublin congregation has generated new demands for space. It is now planned to refurbish St Catherine's, owned by Dublin Corporation, to allow the Church of Ireland to move back in.

The reopening of the church to be been a pharismant.

church, to house a charismatic evangelical congregation, indicates that Ireland is now experiencing the phenomenal growth in this form of worship which has transformed dozens of churches in Britain over the past decade and hundreds in the United States over the past 20 years. Liz Harries, spokeswoman for the Church of ireland, said the plan marked a turning point: "We have closed so many churches over the years, so opening one again is a source of great joy for such a small population to witness. We are terribly

encouraged." Anglican churches have been closing all over Ireland north and south - since the turn of the century as the Protestant population left the country or married Roman Catholics. Eight years ago, church membership reached

325,000, two thirds of whom were in Northern Ireland Immigration from Germany, Britain and The Netherlands to rural retreats in the south and west has boosted numbers to about 400,000.

The Rev Willi Stewart, who

started the evangelical services at St Werburgh's, has witnessed rare and rapid growth in his Dublin parish Less than four years ago he and 12 people moved there to establish the evangelical

congregation.

The congregation has now grown to 120 and includes lapsed Catholics. St Catherine's will be their new home once they find the £1.5 million required for the refurbishment, although a smaller, more traditional congregation will continue to worship at St. Werburgh's.

Mr Stewart heads the only charismatic evangelical con-gregation in Dublin and one of a handful in Ireland as a

Built in 1775, St Catherine's is a listed building. Mr Stewart said: "It needs a new root. lighting, heating and new furnishings, but we are absolutely thrilled to be reversing the decay." One deconsecrated Anglican church in Dublin has become a design shop, while another, St George's, is a nightclub.

> At Your Service Weekend, page 11

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Holy sites give pilgrims a chance to renew faith

Martin Warner

his summer thousands of people will set out on pilgrimage to a holy place. They will be following well-worn paths, and those who travel to Little Walsingham in Norfolk will be part of a tradi-

the 11th century. Known before the Reformation as England's Nazareth. Little Walsingham became a pilgrimage site as the result of a vision given to the Lady of the Manor, Richeldis de Faverche in 1061. She was shown by the Virgin Mary the house of Gabriel's salutation in Nazareth and was instructed to build a replica of that house. The site was then

encased in a pilgrimage church administered by Augustinian canons. Thousands of pilgrims now visit Little Walsingham

every year. Drawn by more than historical interest, they come on a journey to deepen their faith through an en-counter with the living God. Pilgrimage is a demonstration of the human response to Jesus's call to discipleship: "Follow me." It

encompasses the baptismal experience of repentance. forgiveness and healing.

The journey to a holy place is a vital part of the experience. Leaving behind things that are familiar and safe opens us to the possibility of an encounter with God. The great pilgrimage sites are points of inter-

I have often heard pil-grims describe how the peace they find in holy places enables them to face with renewed faith the trials of life and discover a new depth to their spiritual life. In the Anglican shrine at Little Walsingham people

nuclear tests.

The 90-year-old novelist

made the gift to help to fund

an independent study after

latest of many charitable donations made by the bedrid-

den Dame Catherine, who

suffers from a blood disorder

and is nearly blind. She donat-

ed £40,000 last year to help to

revive Charters-Ancaster Coll-

ege in East Sussex, which had

change between Earth and

gather each day at 6pm for prayers. This is the offering to God of pilgrims' prayers. encompassing all aspects of life a broken marriage, a person with leukaemia or thanksgiving for the birth of a daughter.

In art, hymnody and the enacted symbol of pilgrimage Mary expresses at a point of interchange the nature of our Christian discipleship; that we are chosen by God to be a people who travel from Earth to Heaven.

The role of Mary, the mother of Jesus, is essentially scriptural and human. She responds joyfully to God, offering him simply that of which she is capable. bearing a child.

Mary's identity as woman, mother and disciple is simply and particularly what St Paul describes in his letter to the Romans as "the glory which is destined to be disclosed for us". Her experience is therefore close to ours, especially at moments of uncertainty and pain.

Christians it is also the way of the Cross, and it is inevitable that we should all encounter on it evil, sinfulness, In 1538 the Walsingham

without its difficulties. For

shrine was suppressed and pilgrimage ceased. But this century it has been transformed and renewed in a remarkable way. A place that witnessed terrible destruction and sacrilege has also become a symbol of healing and reconciliation.

It can be a costly and disturbing experience to become a pilgrim and seek God on hallowed ground. But the vision of Heaven, which in such places seems almost within our grasp, draws us up into the company of the beavenly orders with all the saints. There we are confronted with the love of the Father, which was revealed in his incarnate Son and, through the Holy Spirit, still abides on Earth. The Rev Martin Warner is administrator of the Anglican shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk

1771 Jan 198



The Rev Martin Warner at Walsingham

Cookson donates £50,000 for study of nuclear test veterans

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DAME Catherine Cookson closed because of falling pupil has donated £50,000 to exnumbers. servicemen who suffered ill-A spokeswoman for her ness after being involved with

agents, Anthony Sheil Associates, said yesterday: "She is a generous woman, but she never comments on the donations she makes." learning of the veterans' dis-trust of government-spon-sored health surveys. It is the

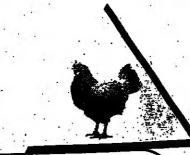
Dame Catherine, who still creates stories by dictation. sent her donation through her husband. Tom, after hearing of the work of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association. The veterans are due to hold their fourteenth annual general meeting in Blackpool today. Ken McGinley, the chairman, said: "We have

been fighting for justice for many years and this will give our 3,000 members tremendous hope.

The cheque arrived out of the blue after we had sent numerous appeals to various people for help. It is the most we have ever received and will be used to fund an independent health study into the exservicemen who took part in the tests."

Mr McGinley, who witnessed five nuclear blasts on Christmas Island in the 1950s. said: "We believe previous studies by the Government have been seriously flawed."





Why did the chicken cross the information superhighway? To get to the other site.



Two words: "the internet". They're almost enough to make you stop reading, aren't they? But Yell, the internet site of Yellow Pages, is receiving 1.5 million page views a month. Translated, this means that hundreds of thousands of people regularly look at the site. And you don't think they all need

"Pass the Yellow Pages", dear, I want to hear the Strange? Yes. Impossible? Unfortunately not. Good old Yellow Pages is now available on the inter To find good new Electronic Yellow Pages, go to the Yello website a

Yell is just like Yellow Pages. If Yellow Pages had moving pictures, clucking sounds and photos of Jarvis Cocker.

There you'll find such things as travel guides, a Film Finder™ and a collection of gardening tips. There's also a list of the UK's most popular sites: The Spice Girls site,

with extracts from their album, is at number 4 this week. And of course, Yell is the home of Electronic Yellow Pages. This is the most comprehensive on-line source of information about businesses in the country.

It includes the names and details of over 16 million companies. Which is a lot.

The headings will all be familiar to you from Yellow Pages: plumbers (8,280 of them), driving schools (6,911), restaurants (18,510), doctors (13,293) and of course, chick sexers (1).

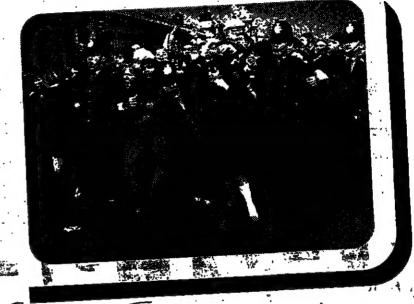
You can search for them by business type and by area. Some of the entries will also have photographs of their staff and their products and even a map† showing where you can find them.

Should you be spending too much time indoors in front of that computer of yours, Green Fingers will tell you what you should be doing in the garden instead. (In case you're wondering, it's about time you started

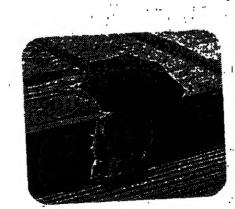
on the herb patch.) The Film Finder includes links to Hollywood sites and fully comprehensive listings and reviews. So it can tell you where a particular film is on, what time it starts and not to bother seeing it.

If you want to find out what's new on the web, take a look at Yellow Web's

list of the Top 30 UK sites. This week, the BBC Weather Site is at number 28, Capital Radio's site (with links to Pulp's home page) is at number 20 and UK Laughter Links rises eleven





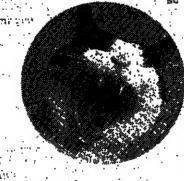


places to number 15 (now you don't have to remember jokes, just where to find them).

To visit a site, just click on their name and you'll be transferred straight out of Yell and into the new site.

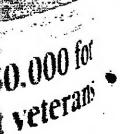
Transferred? Out of Yell? Really, how could you, after all we've done for you?





A cat won't go through the post. But





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faith.



The website of Yellow Pages. http://www.yell.co.uk

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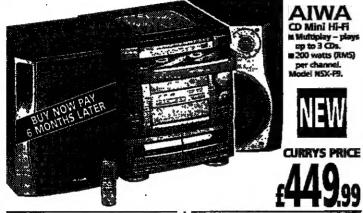
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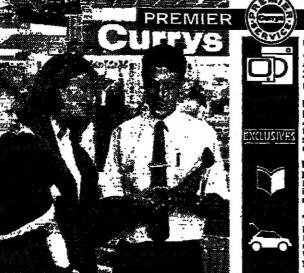
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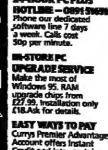












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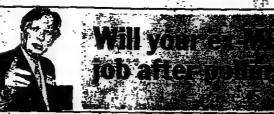
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ELECTION97

What do you get if you cross Del Boy and Casanova?

Matthew Parris - page 13



The flying canvasser Campaigning in Britain's most beautiful seat Ben Macintyre - page 16

Parties cannot rouse moor's walking dead

scratched his stubble and thought hard, "Politics, you say? No I don't think we've had anyone come in here wanting to talk about that,"

If there is a wind of political change blowing through the country it has not reached Blakey Ridge. Here there is only a stiff easterly that licks along the tops of the North York Moors and howls around one of the country's most remote public houses.

The house is the only dwelling on the 40-mile stretch of moorland between Osmotherley and Ravenscar which constitutes the Lyke Wake Walk. This is a barren land, but there are still people up there and they have a story to tell about the state of this nation as it prepares to go to the polls. They do not expect the political parties to stop to listen.

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True, most people up here don't have anything to say. They are dead. Bronze Age tribes living in the valleys would carry their dead to the highest point of the moors. where the bodies were burnt and buried in grave mounds.

Throughout the year their most frequent visitors are sheep and farmers. But around now scouts are arriving from all over Britain ahead of the legions that will trek this way over the sum-ther. Every year thousands, sometimes up to 10,000, fry to devised a scheme that allowed complete the Lyke Wake may be skip sections of the route Walk, which follows the say in The Times photographer's cient burial hounds from the Times photographer Osmotheries in the west to Ravenscar in the east. Afficonados sing medieval songs about the watchings

over (wakes) of corpses (lykes). My background research was undertaken over pints of the local brew, Black Sheep, in the Three Tuns in Osmother ley. Paul Sherwood, a local JP and Anxious Almoner of the Lyke Wake Club alarmed me with tales of the ordeal ahead, but also gave me a flavour of local politics. He was popular with fellow drinkers for standing as an independent in the local council elections that take place on May I and are regarded by many as rather more important than the other

poll that day. The consensus of the villagers who eyed me with bemusement was that only the hardiest and most experienced



In the wastes of Yorkshire the

quick and the dead tell Damian

Whitworth how

little they care about politics

walkers tried the entire crossing alone, without the back-up and the rest stations that are set up on special walk days. Relieved to find an excuse, I Diana Farrow, my landlady at the Moon House bed and breakfast, herself a veteran of the walk, "I wouldn't have time to complete the walk if I kept stopping to talk to people." She gave me a funny look. You might meet Old Nick up there, but I don't know who else."

It looked like a lonely hike. So, just outside the village, at the stone that marks the start of the walk, it was a cause of minor celebration to find I was not alone.

Alan Sanderson, an extraordinarily sprightly 83-year-old. overtook me at a terrifying speed with his dog, Pup. "We'll all be very pleased when May 2 comes. Some people might be politically minded, but I'm not. Not at my age. You might find a few people up there, but they'll

of the way of the election," he said as I struggled to keep up. Sadly he was not going my way, though he looked like he could make it to Ravenscar and back before breakfast.

Much of the early part of the walk follows the Cleveland Way, but as the path crossed the first burial mound the only company was a party of mountain bikers making heavy going on a lower path. Then, half a dozen miles in,

a lone walker came in the opposite direction. Les Jackson, 59, was enjoying the leisure that came with early retirement from ICI. "At least I have time for walking now. It's nice to be away from it all up here. Every time the door-bell rings it is somebody canvassing. I'm not bothered about any party. They are all going to be the same."

All the same. How this one

theme echoed across the valleys from such different people along this walk. A little further on and a gang of four cheerful men from unemployment-ravaged Yarm rounded the corner. "We're all old Labour." Ray Seymour, 40, said. "But none of the parties are going to make this country any better." But despite disenchantment with Tony Blair's new Labour, there was at least an intention to vote out the present Govern-ment. Middlesbrough. PC as much as the lack of jobs was the reason. John Major and Maggie Thatcher were in bottleneck we didn't get to the game until half-time," Mr Seymour said, referring to the Coca Cola Final against Leicester City. "So we were done twice by the blues."

Just before the path rose to its most hostile stretches I came across a man boiling with opinions. David Rutter, 44, whose 250-acre farm is now mostly devoted to sheep after the BSE scare, was angry but could not see a party that would appease him. He was mending a drystone wall torn down by thieves looking to sell the stones for garden paths and chaining a gate ripped off its hinges by bikers who have churned up his fields. "Politicians are all the same. When they are in they just look after themselves. Farmers don't have any clout any more." The path crosses through



Our reporter sets off on the Lyke Wake Walk. Photographs: MICHAEL POWELL.

beautiful but bleak moorland, soggy underfoot and hard going against the wind up onto Blakey Ridge and the Lion Inn. "The walkers are starting to come through and we are like an oasis in the desert," said David Crossland. 26, the barman and son of the landlord as he pulled me a pint of Theakston's Old Peculier, a beer with a name

unusually appropriate to the way I was feeling. He said the absence of political debate was not down to an absence of regulars, as I had expected. "We do have regulars. Mostly farmers who come up from the villages. But it's just that we're not the sort who are interested in politics. You might think farmers would be concerned because of Europe and everything. But they are not, not up here.'

Blokeish Clarke breathes life into dismal campaign

WHAT a splendid fellow is Kenneth Clarke, though part of his splendidness lies in the fact that he is more a bloke than a fellow. He was clearly up early enough yesterday to read in The Times my complaint that this has been a bloodless, dismal campaign. By the time he arrived at the BBC's Election Call studio, Mr. Clarke had decided to do something about it.

The result was the classiest and most original broadcasting performance of the campaign. Mr Clarke knows we are fed up with this election, so yesterday he embarked on fighting the next one. Delete Chancellor Clarke, defender of the Tory record. Insert candidate Clarke, waving a nomination paper for the battle to succeed John Major. Not that Chancellor

Clarke was absent, any more than candidate Clarke was overtly present. Indeed, he is by far the most compelling defender of the staus quo in Mr Major's team.

But this was Mr Clarke speaking for himself, the man of the Centre, the unity candidate. He invoked onenation Toryism on at least two occasions, he cited his hero", the late Iain Macleod (a former Tory Chancellor) and he rubbished the

The alleged coming of VAT on food was "one of the great myths of the Euroceptics". Mr Clarke has met Paul Sykes, the millionaire who is funding Tory candidates opposed to the single currency. Mr Sykes has

"this complete fixation that the end of the nation state is

nigh". Mr Clarke even went so far as to suggest the likeli-bood of Mr Blair becoming Prime Minister on Thursday, or what is one to make of the statement that "Tony Blair might lose". He could have said that Tony Blair might win, a form of words that easily conveys a far-fetched and remote possibil-

Thelma Lawson, a caller from Pewsey in Wiltshire, was so impressed with Mr Clarke that she said: "Under a Labour government led by

RADIO WATCH PETER BARNARD

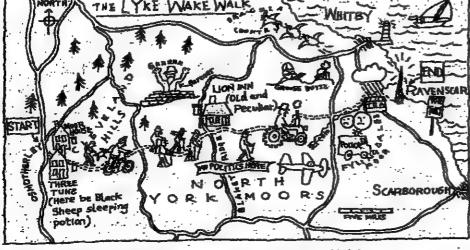
Mr Blair there'll be a seat for you somewhere." Somehow, though, Clarke does not quite fit the Blairite image. You feel that he is too much his own man

to be one of Mr Blair's. Mr Clarke answers ques tions over the airwaves as if they have been asked over a pint in a pub. He drops no clangers, but he has the disarming ability to sound as if he will drop one at any moment. Much more impressive, he does not sound as if he would care very much if he did.

No doubt the impression is calculated, but it does not sound as if it has been machined on the lathes of Central Office. For this relief, much thanks.

Temporary EMU, page 14

With a TSB **Cash Gift Mortgage** you could get up to £6,000 to spend as you like.



David Rutter, a lively sheep farmer with a boiling anger no party can appease, has his place on our map

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The Stamina Factor

this week: 2,290 igning on the streets: 20 **Interviews:** Average 11 per day Press conferences and railies: 7 Average working day: 19 hours

Ad libbed speech to Scottish Tories which veered into the surreal: "If I went to invade Mars, they (Labour) will Invade Mars. From their point of view, Mars Today, Cadbury Tomorrow and Bournville the day Age: 43 *** Miles travelled

this week: 900

Interviews: Average 10 per day Press conferences and railies: 12 Average working day: 18 hours

ICM poll showing Labour lead over the Tories down to five points

lge: 56 dies tran this week: 2,700 Hours spent

streets/in schools: 1/ Interviews: Average 16 per day Average working day: 19 hours

He struggled to defend the party's radical credentials as Dimbleby claimed the manifesto was a pale

after. Heaven alone knows where they will go

Ill-fated Tory chicken grilled by police

TONY BLAIR visited Kent yesterday to meet victims of crime but was confronted by a victim of tough police action — the ill-fated Tory chicken.

The Labour leader's trip to Dover was interrupted by the latest appearance of the Tory fowl which was given a hands-on example of how Mr Blair intends to get tough

on crime. The chicken, which has not been seen since appearing in a kilt in Edinburgh last week, was marched off by police after he tried to disrupt Mr Blair's visit to the port to discuss smuggling with cus-toms officials. Earlier, Mr Blair met some victims of crime in Folkestone.

Brandishing a placard saying. "Are you still chicken, Mr Blair?", the fowl and his Tory minder somehow managed to get into the heavily guarded quayside as Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, disembarked after a short boat trip. Labour officials and press officers tried in vain to push the chicken away until harbour police arrived on the scene. "Please go away, Mr Chicken," one of the officials cried.

The chicken was bundled into a car by the police, one of whom said: "He should have dressed as a duck because then we could have seen if he could swim.

The chicken, which is attempting to highlight Mr Blair's refusal to agree to a television debate with John Major, was grilled briefly by police before being released outside the harbour gates. A. police spokeswoman said the chicken had got into the port by pretending to be a member of the media. "He was not arrested or charged," she said. "A report will be submitted to the Chief Officer of Police to determine possible futher action."

The port, which is owned by the Harbour Board, is private property and the chicken could have broken tresspass laws. A Tory



The chicken at Dover. He was taken away by police and bundled into a car

spokesman said the police had been called to "rescue" the chicken from the Labour officials who wanted to throw him into the sea.

The incident came after Mr Blair unveiled plans for a flagship crime Bill in Labour's first Queen's Speech if the party wins office. The Crime and Disorder Bill will include plans to crackdown on juvenile crime, nuisance neighbours, racial violence and drink and drug-related

The focus will be a reform of the youth justice system with a new fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders. Other pledges include a new "final warning" to replace cautioning for

young people, reform of the doli incapax law so that children, aged 10 to 13, can be considered able to differentiate between right and wrong, and a new National Youth

Special forms of injunctions - known as Community Safety Orders - will be set up to allow police and local authorities to restrain particular individuais involved in anti-social behaviour. Professional witnesses, such as undercover police. will also be used to help avoid witness intimidation in disputes among neighbours. Labour also plans to create

a new offence to cover racial

harassment and racially mo-

tivated violence. To curb

alcohol-related crime, Labour wants to tighten licensstricter pub exclusion orders. They also want city centre landlords to use glasses made of toughened glass to reduce injuries in fights where glasses are used as

The Bill will include plans for a curfew for children under ten who are allowed to roam the streets at night. A new Parental Responsibility Order will force parents to accept guidance and counselling to help deal with their problem children. New laws forcing serious drug-addicted offenders to undergo treatment and random testing will also be included:

Huge cash blow to Tory pension plans

Conservative privatisation scheme may hit tax cuts. Jill Sherman reports

THE Tory plans to privatise the state pension ran into trouble yesterday when the party admitted that there could be billions of pounds of unforeseen start-up costs. Senior Tory strategists even conceded that tax cuts might be jeopardised as a result.

As Labour's attacks forced the Tories to flesh out the details, it also emerged that people aged up to 30, rather than in their early twenties as previously estimated, might be included.

Labour is telling pensioners that their basic state pension is not safe with the Tories. That is untrue. The changes will not affect anyone now aged 60 or over. But the Tories are still vague about who would be included in the scheme, allowing Labour to run with its scare stories. Yesterday they said that the scheme would mainly be for those entering the workforce, aged between 16 and 22, but one spindoctor said he hoped those aged 30 to 40 would be included.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary said that the scheme would be aimed at the early twenties, but it was possible that those up to 25 could be included if the Chancellor had enough money, and

if the plan proved popular. Extending the scheme to those aged 30 to 40 would bring two problems: they cost more in the short term and they would have to be given rebates to compensate for their contributions to the basic



they go onto the scheme. John Major says the new pension may pay out £175 a week, compared to the basic state pension of £65. He suggested at yesterday's press conference that some measures might have to be taken to phase in the more generous sum, to avoid huge differences in payouts between the two

egists and social security ministers appeared unaware of what the prime minister was talking about. Later a party source said Mr Major meant that if was affordable there could be top ups for those left on the basic pension.

One of Labour's most credible charges has been that the Basis Pension Plus scheme

Until now the Tories have argued that the £7 billion a year cost of the scheme would be paid for by stopping women drawing state pensions until they are 65, not 60 as at present.

They say the equalisation of state pension age, due to take effect from 2010, would save E15 billion. This leaves a seven or eight year funding hole as the scheme may start in 2002 or 2003, Originally, when John Major announced the Basic Pension Plus it was due to start in 2001.

The other source of funding, spoken of for the first time yesterday, is to make changes to make Serps — the State Earning Related Pensions Scheme - less generous.

At present Serps, the additional state pension, is calculated on the highest year of earnings. In future it will be calculated on average earnings. Sources say this will build up to savings of £7 bil-lion a year by 2030. Money will start coming in in 2000 but the Tories now admit this will not cover the start up

There will be start up costs," admitted one party strategist. "And people may have to forgo tax cuts." However, he could not put a figure on what those costs would be.

He suggested that progress towards a basic 20p tax rate could still be made in a first parliament but this would be unlikely to happen in a second

Looking for bright idea to meet the challenge of a grey future

THE Basic Pension Plus scheme, the Conservative answer to the problems of a "greying" population and the generally inadequate level of provision for retirement among the population, was

unveiled in early March. Under Basic Pension Plus. both the basic and the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme (Serps) would be abolished. They would be replaced by personal pensions, managed by life insurance com-Tax relief contributions would be

Anne Ashworth and Caroline Merrell examine the background and the criticisms

of the Tory plan that has come to the forefront of the election campaign

the Chilean model of pension provision, introduced under the regime of General Pinochet, the military dictator, as a replacement for the country's near-bankrupt pension

ment. This would be a revolution for a nation where pension saving has tended to be an almost optional activity.

At present, the state pensions of those in retirement are paid for by those in work. one to provide for their retire- support every pensioner. By

2030. five working people will have to pay the pensions of three people.

However, some influential observers, including the Institute of Financial Studies, believe there is no real funding problem for the basic pension. The Institute points out that the overall tax take will increase as more people earn higher amounts.

This will more than compensate for the larger number of retired people. The basic pension will also be extremely Basic Pension Plus will be statistics show that today there low as a proportion of average compulsory, obliging every- are five working people to earnings in a few decades

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON BASIC PENSION PLUS

For those about to start work, and those in their early twenties, the basic pension and Serps will be replaced by Basic Pension Plus. These individuals will get a £9-a-week National Insurance rebate to be invested as a replacement for the basic pension. They will also get a rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings liable to NI, which will be invested as a Serps substitute. They will be able to add their own contributions to these rebates. Employers can also contribute.

The government contributions alone should provide a minimum pension of £175 a week. The Conservatives claim that the value of pension produced by investing £9 a week will not be less than the value of the basic pension. ☐ How much will the new pension cost?

Basic Pension Plus is intended to save money. The initial cost

will be £160 million. This will rise rapidly to £7 billion as more people join the workforce and receive NI rebates. Eventually there should be an overall saving of £40 billion because no basic state pension or Serps would need to be paid.

☐ If those in work are paying for their own pensions, who will pay the pensions of those retiring?

Abolishing tax relief on pension contributions should save £8 billion a year. To compensate for the loss of relief, the Tories have pledged that pensions when paid out will be tax-free up to an unspecified limit.

Another £8 billion will be needed to pay for those in retirement. This will come from increased tax revenues.

What is the principal criticism of the Basic Pension Plus

proposals?
The plans are said to depend too much on the life insurance industry whose past record in pension sales is lamentable. Life insurers have compensated only a few of the 500,000 victims of the personal pension scandals of the late Eighties and early

☐ How did the Conservatives react to these criticisms? Ministers swiftly reacted to these criticisms. Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, rebuked Sir Andrew Large, chief executive of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, over the slow progress of the review into personal pension mis-selling. Meanwhile, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, warned life insurance companies that they would not be permitted to be involved in the Basic Pension Plus scheme if they had not settled their compensation liabilities. There will be a list of approved insurance company suppliers.

☐ What were the other criticisms? There was some dismay over the promise of a £175-a-week tax-

free pension for a contribution of £9 a week, plus 5 per cent of National Insurance. This was considered to be based on overoptimistic predictions for investment returns. NPI, the insurance company and one of the leading names in pensions commented: "Our preliminary analysis of the projections suggests that a 4 per cent real rate of return will be required. This could be quite a challenging target."

The removal of tax relief on contributions has also been the subject of comment. Tax relief not only encourages individuals to contribute to pensions, it makes it possible for them to afford to contribute more of their income. Although the Conservatives have promised that pensions will be tax-free when paid, it seems impossible to guarantee this pledge as future governments might move to change the tax rules, deducting income tax from pensions when paid. How does Basic Pension Plus compare with the Labour

Labour proposals for the future of pensions are far more vague. Labour does not envisage having to scrap the basic pension, which is currently worth £62.45 a week. Like the Conservatives. Labour will continue to link rises in the basic pension to inflation, which means that the basic pension as a

proportion of average earnings will rapidly decrease. Labour does not intend to abolish Serps straightaway, although it does agree that the system is unworkable in its

Labour has been exploring the options for more private provision of pensions, but is wary of giving a large role in this process to the insurance companies. Instead it believes in a second tier of "stakeholder" pension, which could be run by the unions or other affinity groups. The 4.5 per cent of National Insurance contributions that go towards the funding of Serps pension will go towards this pension, and Serps will gradually be wound down.

What is the verdict of the life insurance industry?

Standard Life, one of the biggest names in the business, believes that both the Labour proposals and the Conservative plans lack the element of compulsion necessary to ensure that individuals make sufficient provision for their old age. A spokesman said: "As far as life insurance companies are concerned, the Labour plans would only work if the schemes proved to be very popular as otherwise our margins would be

"The Conservatives will have to work hard to persuade young people who are making contributions out of taxed income that any future government would guarantee their final pension fund was tax-free."

Branson to endorse plan for utility windfall tax

RICHARD Branson will today become one of the first mainstream British businessmen to endorse Labour's windfall tax (writes Andrew Pierce). The entrepreneur will stop short of endorsing the Labour Party but will reiter-ate his belief that his Virgin Group should be independent of party politics.

Mr Branson, an admirer of the changes to Labour, will endorse two more of the party's policies in a speech alongside Mr Blair. He will back proposals to divert some of the profits from the midweek National Lottery to the health service and schools. Mr Branson proposed an identical deal to Margaret Thatcher in June 1988 when he headed a group of businessman who offered to run a profits-for-

charity lottery. Mr Branson will also praise Labour's competition policy at a photo-call with Mr Blair at



C4 refuses **BNP** slot

CHANNEL 4 has refused to show a party election broad-cast by the British National Party claiming it violates an Independent Television Commission code. Other channels showed the broadcast.

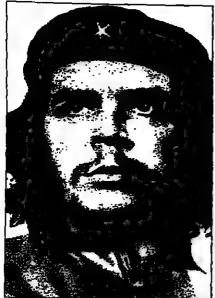
Earlier this week the station asked the BNP to change the programme as it showed people who had not consented to be in the broadcast. Channel 4 said the new version still contravened an ITC pro-gramme code but the BNP refused more changes.

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Dobson emitting any noise but

laughter, looked relieved. I decid-

ed to seek out the most likely Tory

candidate for London's mayoralty.

Steve Norris was ensconced in a London Weekend Television stu-

dio - whither Mr Dobson also

hastened. After being offered 60

seconds to describe Tory plans for the capital — "Oh Jesus, I've hardly started"— Mr Norris spent

20 minutes raging at a mostly hostile audience, LWT having

thrown at him such calmly pene-

trating questioners as a woman

whose son had been killed on the

Underground, and a man who

هكذا من الإجليم



A cross between Che Guevara and Paddington Bear would spawn Labour's bearded and cuddly Frank Dobson, while that between Del Boy of Only Fools and Horses and Casanova would produce a cocky Tory, Steve Norris

Capital takes centre stage in theatre of the absurd

The answer is Frank Dobson, Labour's bearded, cuddly, grunting revolutionary - and Opposition spokesman for London. What do you get if you cross Del Boy and Casanova? The answer is Steve Norris, the Tories' quick-thinking, cocky, folksy Lothario - and former Minister for Transport in

Both were on display yesterday in a variety of staged minuets which could prove early auditions for the office of elected Mayor of

Like so much about this election, the shadow-boxing raised a presentiment of things to come. We witnessed yesterday the death of the campaign press conference. and of the campaign battle hus. The death of the press conference occurred at 10,07am, beside the Thames. Frank Dobson was to "launch" Labour's manifesto for London. This is six pages long, two pages consisting entirely of colour

photographs, the rest a thin

stream of abstract nouns mean-

dering between pictures of Tony Blair and happy people. Mr Dobson arrived, beaming. accompanied by Glenda Jackson. scowling. But almost nobody else did. There were only a handful from the press — the two photogra-phers being more interested in the possibility that the lone seal now apparently at large in the Thames might be sighted. Sadly, it was not. Party spokesmen are two-a-penny. Seals are news.

Mr Dobson's retinue was larger than his audience, and consisted of a dozen or so new Labour clones from Millbank Tower. These people wear dark suits, never smile, walk around in pairs, and increasingly resemble Mormons. Some were there to assist Mr Dobson, some to gag him, some to report on him, and the remainder to spy on each other.

His team then created a photoopportunity which would have soon as practicable". Asked to

gladdened the hearts of lonesco or define the phrase, he suggested. Magritte. They made him stand, "in due course". grinning, the Thames and St Paul's his backdrop, holding up a card with a photograph of the Thames and St Paul's on it. The

cynicism - encapsulated in a single frame the campaign of 1997. Questions followed. Mr Dobson was asked about Labour's plan for a London government. The seal would have been more forthcoming. Mr Dobson said he did not know when this would reach Parliament, but it would be "as

moment and the scene - a com-

bination of absurdity, vacuity and

Then there would be a referen-

dum. It was not necessary to describe the plan, because "people can vote for or against it". Voting for new Labour seems to resemble voting for one of those touch-tone telephones: "for an elected mayor, press 7; for a Welsh assembly. press 5 . . . " He refused to rule out - "I can't envisage it" - running

for the office of Mayor. All Mr Dobson's non-replies were accompanied by his genial chuckle grunt. The journalists gave up and went away. His minders, whose mission is to stop Mr

At least this election could spell the death of the press conference and the battle bus, Matthew Parris writes dents at work.

If there is one spectacle more contemptible than our politicians answering questions, it is our citizens asking them. The British voter appears obsessive, shifty, self-interested and incapable of murshalling an argument.

I missed the battle bus. Apparently this was to take the Prime Minister to Ilford, and did, but no journalists bothered to go. They say Mr Blair's battle buses have become an equally pointless bore. Mr Ashdown's was pointless from the start. If this wretched election campaign achieves nothing more than to kill the press conference and the battle bus, it will not all

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ON FLUS

Shephard Sinn Fein rebuked ban upheld

fierce attack on Conservative plans for a grammar school in every town when Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, addressed their conference in Torquay yes-terday. Bruce Douglas, vice-president of the Secondary Heads Association. told Mrs Shephard in a vote of thanks: "We believe that the indiscriminate and haphazard extension of selection by individual schools supposedly embedded in a local and national setting is educationally counterproductive, organisationally chaotic, resource inefficient and morally dubious."

Head teachers launched a

The BBC in Northern Ireland was right to refuse to show a Sinn Fein party election broadcast containing potentially libelious film clips, a Belfast High Court judge ruled yester-

One of the clips showed David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader. speaking on a mobile telephone at last summer's Drumcree gathering, immediately followed by scenes of police batoning people BBC said that it suggested that Mr Trimble was directly responsible for the violence and was therefore defamatory.

Puppet advert cleared

The Advertising Standards Authority said it would not be investigating complaints about the Conservative newspaper advertisement portraying a finy Tony Blair sitting like a pupper on the knee of a giant Helmut Kohi, the German Chancellor, as it did not consider that it contravened codes of practice. More than 50 complaints were received.



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Chancellor dismisses Eurosceptic fears

KENNETH CLARKE repudiated yesterday the 200-plus Tory candidates who have openly opposed Britain joining a single currency, and surprised Eurosceptics and Brussels alike by suggesting that such a move

might not be irrevocable.

The European Commission categorically denied his claims that Britain would be free to pull out of the European single currency if it did not like the way the system worked.

The Chancellor, who has distanced himself from the Eurosceptic tone of the Tory election campaign, said that the Tory candidates who had openly opposed a single currency in their

that the Prime Minister would be bound to abide in government by the wait-and-see policy set out in the Tory manifesto, despite the large-scale revolt against it by candidates.

Yesterday he provoked further consternation among Eurosceptics with a statement that European monetary union need not be irrevocable. His aides insisted that Mr Clarke was saying nothing new or startling

into a single currency the decision could never be reversed.

- he was merely pointing out that a monetary union might collapse. A central argument among the sceptics is that once Britain has gone

Mr Clarke, appearing on the BBC's Election Call, which is broadcast simultaneously on BBCI and

Radio 4, said: The intention of going into monetary union would be that this is intended to be permanent in the foreseeable future - that everybody would fix their interest rates together, that everybody would have the same currency. Once you've got into that, the idea would be that

nobody would come out". He added, however: "In fact, there is never a 'never' in politics." Previous attempts at monetary union had ended. "We were in monetary union with the Irish Republic for about 50 years. They pulled out of that in the 1970s. So these things can be disentangled. But no one should go into it believing it was anything other than a lasting situation.

Sir Teddy Taylor, the veteran

Once you have joined a single currency you hand over sovereignty for your gold reserves and monetary controls and you have no say over your economy

Mr Clarke had defended the Tory candidates against a charge of "xenophobia". He said: "I don't think they're xenophobic. I don't think they all hate foreigners - I hope none of them hate foreigners. I think the candidates are wrong to say they are going to rule out membership of the single currency now.

don't think it's in British interests to make that decision now. I actually think we should continue to be very closely involved in all the discussions about it. It may be in our

disagreed with Mr Clarke. He said the move would be irreversible. advantage, it may be to our disagnate the move would be irreversible. vantage, but the right time to make that decision is later when we know

more about it." He was unimpressed by the newspaper advertisements placed by the pro-Conservative millionaire Paul Sykes, opposing the single currency. Mr Sykes has contributed money to Tory candidates who oppose a single

☐ Fertes College, Tony Blair's old school, refused a request from Edinburgh Conservatives for Mr Clarke to hold a meeting there yesterday. The school explained that it was apolitical and did not want to show bias to one party, and that any party would have received the same response. The meeting, with Scottish businessmen.



Tory 'snobs' back anti-Gorman rival

Michael Horsnell reports on civil war in Billericay

A REBELLION against the arch-Europhobe Teresa Gorman is gathering pace among disillusioned Conservatīves in Billericay.

According to Mrs Gorman, the revolt has been launched against her and the working-class Tories she champions in the Essex commuter town by local 'snobs". Amid a war of words, Brian Hughes is standing as a "Loyal Conservative" against the unrepentant Thatcherite whose curriculum vitae lists her as one of John Major's famous "bastards".

Mr Hughes, a local solicitor, who gave up paying his subscriptions to the local Conservative association at least two years ago, objects to her disloyalty to the Prime Minister over Europe - for which she lost the party whip for five months - and her support for John Redwood's challenge to his leadership.

His objection is compounded by Mrs Gorman's chat show image", which he says has helped to turn Billericay into a laughing stock. Claiming yesterday that his intervention could lead to a "sensational" defeat for her after ten years in Parliament, his campaign has led to the defection of two big fish from the

Peggy Marshall, a mem-ber of her campaign team,

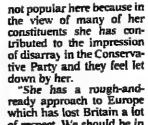


Gorman: "He thinks I am not posh enough

and formerly her election agent, has joined Mr Hughes as his election agent. Amid claims that the local association is in dissarray with a plunging membership. Lilian Greenfield, a prominent Essex county councillor from Billericay, has also defected to the Hughes camp with two other councillors. A one-nation Conserva-

tive who was appointed MBE in 1995 for services to the community. Mr Hughes, 61, has written to constituents saying: "It saddens me to know that, for a number of reasons, mention of the name Billericay usually evokes more laugh-

He said: "Mrs Gorman is them to pull it down.



of respect. We should be in there negotiating for the best we can get. We need a pragmatic approach, not a 'Stuff you, give us our ball back' attitude." Mrs Gorman remains de-

fiant about her image and her political standing. She said: "Mr Hughes thinks I am not posh enough to be the MP, that my appearance on the Mrs Merton Show is not what members of Parliament should do. [He] calls himself loyal, which is a joke. If he were loyal, he would endorse the opted candidate."

Mrs Gorman was speaking at her l6th-century Grade 2 listed farmhouse in Orsett, over which she and her husband, Jim, were each fined £3,000 last year for making changes with-out listed building consent. Two garden gnomes -

one of John Major, the other of her beloved Baroness Thatcher — stand guard beside the front door where the porch that the couple built used to stand until the local authority ordered



Thatcher's gnome in hectoring mode

School poll gives Blair victory but no majority

Major's gnome with a gun to its head

By David Charter, Education correspondent

LABOUR romped home yesterday in a poll of school polls - but failed to win an overall majority. More than 250,000 schoolchildren gave Labour three times as many seats as the Conservatives, but it fin-ished with 324 seats out of 659.

servatives 113 seats. Liberal Monster Raving Loony Party 8, Referendum 3, Scotland was stormed by the SNP, with 44 of the 72 seats. Labour won 27 of the Welsh 40 seats, with Plaid Cymru next on seven.

Peter Snow, the veteran commentator who analysed the figures using the latest BBC technology installed for the real thing, said: "We may well be getting a first impres-sion of the likely patterns of

But the 1992 schools' poll was a poor forecast of the real thing: Labour 236, Tories 190.

The other results were: Con-Democrats 92, Greens 11, voting in the 21st century."

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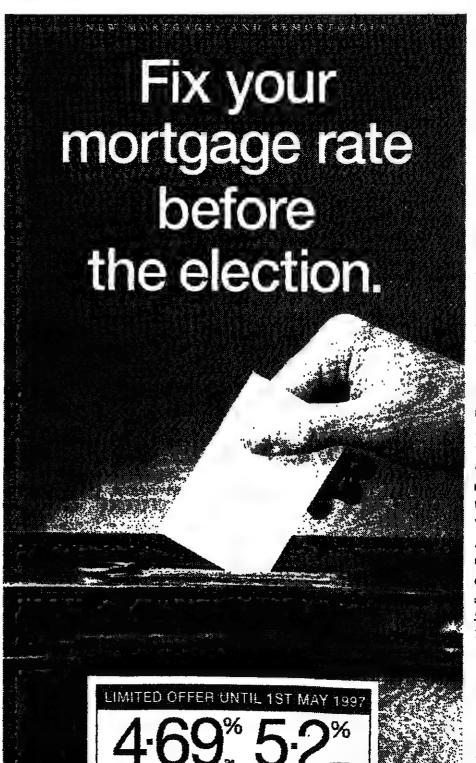
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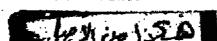
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My last job? Actually, I was running the country

JOB insecurity may be an election issue for voters, but it is an immediate worry to MPs in marginal seats. Next Friday, a string of one-time ministerial high flyers and backbenchers could wake up to an uncertain future.

They may be too busy now to consider the consequences: of defeat, so The Times asked two top City headhunters to examine the CVs of six Tories and one Liberal Democrat, and offer advice on their prospects if they find themselves making the switch from helping to run the country, to running for a job.

Alan Thomas, adviser at Jonathan Wren Search and Selection, and Richard Wall, managing partner of the executive search consultancy Heidrick Struggles, gave their ratings for a job market where former Tory MPs may face a harder time than the usual route into City boardrooms and quangos.

If the opinion polls are correct and Tony Blair forms the next government, there will be dozens looking for alternative employment. Wellknown names such as Edwina Currie and Michael Forsyth are high on the risk list, and they would not find defeat as well-cushioned as former colleagues who lost their seats in elections when the Conservatives remained in government.

In the past, defeated Tories have been rescued by the Tory stranglehold on quangos, health trusts, and corporate boardrooms. Chris Patten, paid a tax-free salary as Governor of Hong Kong, is the classic example of the party's rescue operation for fallen stars. Under a Labour government, former Tory MPs can expect a less sympathetic hearng, and the politicisation of

NHS appointments will end. In City boardrooms, Opposition MPs cannot claim insights and contacts with the party in power.

However, defeated and retiring MPs have one consolatheir compensation package would be the envy of many of their former constituents. The pay-off bill after this election could be as high as

Each loser will be given a resettlement package worth between £21,500 and £43,000,

SATURDAY: Conservatives: John Major in Huntingdon for constituency work and a walk-about, Labour: John Prescott in

about. Labour: John Prescott in East Anglial, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, George Robertson and Donald Dewar in Stirling, Clare Short in Birmingham. Liberal Democrates: Packly Ashdown in north Witshire, Salisbury and Winchester. SUNDAY: Conservatives: No details. Labour: Tony Blair in the Midlands, John Prescott visiting Etham and Gravesham, Kelth Vaz in Leeds, Clare Short in the Wirekin. Liberal Democrate: Paddy Ashdown in London visiting a book centre and public

E ECTION TRAIL

Elizabeth Peacock, 59, MP for Batley and Spen since 1983, majority 845, 15th on Labour target list. Salary. £43,000. Former life assurance consultant.

Mr Thomas advises: a career representing trade associations' interests at Whitehall." Salary: £30,000.

Prospects: 5 out of 10. Mr Wall advises: given her role chairing the House of Commons Motor Club, we could see her as business development director with Bernie Ecclestone's future Formula One pic.

Michael Forsyth, 42, Scottish Secretary, MP for Stirling since 1983, majority 236, sixth on the marginal list. Three children. Salary £103,000. Once ran own PR firm. Mr Thomas advises: a great

future in lobbying Civil Service to push inward investment to Scotland rather than other UK regions. Salary: £70,000. Prospects: 7. Mr Wall advises: set up outplacement agency for friends and colleagues in the Tory Party in Scotland who

might be out of work. Salary

range: good potential.

Dr lan Twinn, 47, MP for Edmonton since 1983, major ity 593, 10th on marginal list. Salary £43,000. Two children. Former senior lecturer in planning at South Bank Polytechnic. Mr Thomas advises: maybe

he could slot into the train ing market. Salary: £30,000. Mr Wall advises: his CV shows an interest in planning transport, Cyprus and Greece — maybe he could spearhead efforts to extra-

dite Asil Nadir. Salary pros-

Malcolm Bruce, 52, Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon since 1983, top of Tory target list after boundary changes. Former buyer for Boots, joint publisher of Aberdeen Petroeum Publishing.

Mr Thomas advises: develop

interests in the publishing field. Salary: £60,000 to £70,000. Prospects: 7. Mr Wall advises: with his interests in marketing and energy, could be put forward as replacement for Bob Hoskins in commercials. It would be a limited run. Salary

prospects: limited.

Northampton North since 1979, majority 4,067, 47th on target list. Salary: £43,000. Former captain in the Royal Engineers, commercial manager and management consultant. Keen gardener.

Mr Thomas advises: might be too set in his ways to return to management. Might appeal to local comnames because of contacts. Salary: £40,000. Prospects: 5. Mr Wall advises: follow the advice of Voltaire's Candide, and cultivate his garden. Salary prospects: very low.

Alastair Burt, 41. Social Security Minister, MP for Bury North since 1983, majority 4.764, 54th on target list. Salary £74,000. Three children. Solicitor. Member of Commons football team and

marathon runner. Mr Thomas advises: could advise football, health and golf clubs joining the stock exchange. Salary: £30,000. Prospects: 6.

Mr Wall advises: could be international marketing executive with sports promotions company. Salary prospects:

Edwina Currie, 50. ex-Health Minister, MP for Derbyshire South since 1983, majority 1,947, 20th on marginal list. Two children. Salary: £43,000. Former lecturer in economics, and novelist. Mr Thomas advises : terrific prospects as broadcaster and writer. Salary: £100,000 plus.

Prospects: 8. Mr Wall advises: a replacement for Martin Bell, who could be moving into a fulltime political career, Could rival Kate Adic as a top war correspondent. Salary range: extremely lucrative.



plus a pension for life, all calculated on the basis of the number of years they were at the Commons. In addition, they will receive a "winding up allowance" of £15.554 to sort out their their Parliamentary

and constituency work. MPs salaries were increased by 26 per cent last year, ensuring that the paypaid at a far higher rate.

Many drift into well-paid obscurity or pressure groups. Their chances improve when they have a professional skill or experience to fall back on.

Many resume legal careers. such as Humfrey Malins, who lost Croydon North West and was appointed a recorder, and the fiery leftwinger Dave Nellist, expelled from the Labour Party for his links with Militant, who works for a solicitors' firm in Coventry.

Rosie Barnes, the SDP stalwart who refused to join the Liberal Democrats and the lost her seat for her pains, is now running the health charity Well Being.

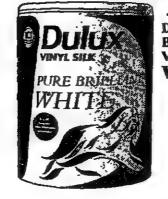
meeting with Simon Hughes at an east London school.

Dorrell, Alen Seith and Allsteir Darling on Sunday with Adam Boutton, Sky 10am; John Major on Dimbleby, ITV. 11.20am and The World This Weekend, BBC R4 1pm; Michael Hesettine, John Prescott and Alan Beith On The Record, BBC1 12.90pm; Kerneth Clarke, Gordon Brown and Alan Beith on The Power and the People, C4 8pm.

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Prescott blitz fails to ruffle urbane Rifkind

Magnus Linklater believes it would take an organised campaign of tactical voting by the Lib Dems and SNP to unseat the 'trustable' face of Scottish conservatism

THE John Prescott whirlwind yesterday tore briefly but memorably through Edinburgh Pentlands, Malcolm Rifkind's leafy suburban seat, where he is perched on a fragile majority of little more than 4.000. It was a bravura perfor-mance — Labour calls it

blitzing" — a series of machinegun exchanges with stunned voters in the Wester Hailes area, a Labour enclave in a largely Tory area. Mr Prescott, cam-paigning for Lynda Clark, was in his element, dealing with a woman whose son is dyslexic (That sounds just like what Michael Heseltine has"); a man with a complicated complaint about benefits ("Why don't we give it to Lynda, Lynda'll give it to me and I'll deal with it") and a diatribe on education ("We want more and more, not less and less, classes of five, six or seven, teachers off the dole, hurry inside, you're

Window stickers for the SNP appeared to outnumber Labour's - a warning for new Labour that Mr Prescott chose to ignore as he roared off for his next blitzkrieg. The real worry here, however, is for the Tories. This is a marginal they simply cannot afford to lose: not only would the Foreign Secretary be without a seat, but it would indicate a wholesale collapse of their support north of the border. The indications are that Mr Rifkind wili just hold on, as he has through thick and thin since 1974. But there has been a swing away from the Tories in the last ten days, and the one thing that could dislodge him is the tactical vote, Liberal Democrats and Scottish Nationalists switch-

getting cold").

ing votes to get a Tory out. So far there is no sign of this being organised on any widespread scale, and set against it is the recognition again.

factor: Mr Rifkind is a "weel-kent face" in Pentlands. Outside Safeway at Hunter's Tryst I met a rarity, a first-time Tory voter. A girl in an Alice band said her parents had always voted Conservative and she did not trust Tony Blair because he was a lawyer and a politician, "But Malcolm Rifkind is a lawyer and a politician," I pointed out "Yes, but Mr Rifkind's

got a trustable face." The trustable face works his patch with practised An introduction, a quick chat about the weather or local gossip, and it's on to the next contact quick, efficient, good-humoured. Mr Rifkind's majority has been remarkably steady over the years. "It has never fallen below 1.000 or risen above 5,000," he announces proudly.

Ms Clark, Mr Rifkind's lawyer. She adopts a more diffident approach and is less intrusive. We meet in South Morningside, where a large number of professional people live and where she believes she has growing support.
It is here that I find Paul

Sadler, a 45-year-old teacher who is convinced that a Scottish parliament is the only way that change will be effected. "There is far too much centralisation. If Labour doesn't deliver devolution. I'll never vote for them again," he says. Ms Clark gives him a solld pledge and window sticker The issue that seems to

emerge is change, or lack of it. Does new Labour genuinely offer an alternative, or has it betrayed the ideals it once stood for? Unless Lynda Clark can demonstrate that Labour is a radical alternative, the electorate of Edinburgh Pentlands may well opt for the trustable face of Mr Rifkind yet



Decent folk don't talk politics

Ben Macintyre shuts his eyes as the professor flies in

for a very few quiet words with the electors of Coll

CATRIONA BRODIE has herded the sheep and lambs off the landing strip, Alan Brodie has erected a windsock by nailing a pair of his old orange fishing waders to a pole and Nell MacCormick. Regius Professor of Law at Edinburgh University and Scottish National Party candi-date for Argyll and Bute, is coming in to land on the tiny

This constituency, made up of two million acres of the Scottish mainland and islands of the inner Hebrides, is one of the most beautiful and least accessible in Britain. Canvassing here requires special techniques, in this case a borrowed four-seat plane.

"It allows me to make better use of my time. This way I can up the voter-per-hour ratio without spending all my time

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on ferries," says Professor MacCormick, a more agricultural than academic figure clad in peat-brown checked suit and tweed cap, and strongly resembling a country

As we fly low over Muli and the Treshnish Isles towards the field on Coll that was, until a few minutes earlier, the

lambing park for the Brodie flock, the view takes the breath away. So does the landing. 'Och, d've see that great big hare?" asks the candidate, as we shudder to a stop.

Not with your eyes closed. you don't. Coll has 117 voters. We are

due to be here for three hours. which makes a possible hit rate of roughly 40 voters an hour. But campaigning in the western Highlands is not like that. First there is gossip to exchange, tea to drink, lambs to bottle-feed, bumpy roads to negotiate in a wheezing banger, newspapers to deliver and plenty of gazing in awe at the scenery. Despite Professor MacCormick's formidable energy, a charming languor tends to creep into proceedings that could not be further removed from the furious

campaigning in more stressful parts of nation. Most notably, it is considered the height of bad manners to ask what anyone plans to do at the polls. Where other candidates may go in with a blunt: "Can I count on your vote next Thursday?" Professor MacCormick is obliged to make remarks about the weather today (spectacular) or the weather yesterday (spectacu-larly wet) and, more often than

not, leave it at that. Since the population is ge-netically disinclined to share its political opinions, Argyll and Bute is a pollster's nightmare, as freakishly unpredictable as the climate. Over the past 20 years the constituency has been captured by three

different parties. Professor MacCormick's brother lain held the seat for the SNP from 1974 until 1979. Then the Tories moved in until 1987, when they were ousted by Ray Michie, of the Liberal Democrats. Mrs Michie held on in 1992, but with just 4,000 votes separating the Lib Dems, the Tories and the SNP, this is a three-way marginal or, in the view of Professor MacCormick who improved the SNP vote by 6 per cent last election, a straight fight between the Lib

Dems and the nationalists. Our first stop seems an unlikely recruiting ground for the SNP: Breachadh Castle, the 14th-century fortress built by clan chief McLean of Coll Professor MacCormick in the plane he uses to get around the constituency to do it, let's do it quickly, commune wordlessly for

generations later, Major Nicholas McLean-Bristol. Major McLean-Bristol wears a kiit, a welcoming smile, a his political affiliations on his sleeve (the only person to do so all day): "It's a pity you're not a Conservative, then I'd vote for you," he says.

In a constituency where nearly 10 per cent of voters are Gaelic speakers, Professor MacCormick's command of the language (learned, along with the bagpipes, from his uncle Dougal) is invaluable, but his family links in the area may be his single strongest asset. The product of nationalist parents and himself one of the main architects of the SNP's constitutional platform, Professor MacCormick was born in Glasgow but spends much of his time in Argyll. He appears to be related, albeit distantly, to almost everyone

in his constituency. The candidate hails the district nurse: "Ah, you're a Henderson. My grandmother was a Henderson from Campbeltown," the town on the end of the Kintyre peninsula and the furthest point in mainland Britain from a railway station. "She was aiming for Canada, but missed." "Not by much,"

observes the nurse. A close friend of the late Labour leader John Smith, at whose funeral on Iona he played the bagpipes, Professor MacCormick's approach to the cause of Scottish independence has become more radical over a lifetime's campaigning. "In the 1970s I was very convincedly a gradualist. I now think that if we're going

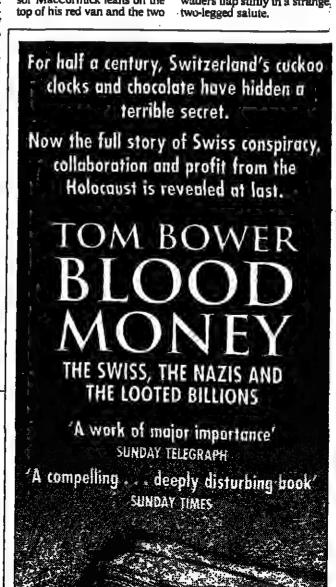
cleanly and with good will." The question of Scottish independence, oddly, barely arises as the candidate strolls around Coll. For the "Collachs", the issues are the cost of freight, the agricultural subsidies and fear that Coll may run dry of petrol since the island shop decided it was no

longer economical to sell it. "We must find the postie," Paul Keegan, pilot and campaign aide, says. Having lo-cated and greeted the island postmaster, key disseminator of island information, Professor MacCormick leans on the

about five minutes. This is a splendid way to campaign.

"I used to sing wi" retired gamekeeper, as he rolls a very small cigarette, very slowly, by the pier. "Seaguils, songs," he adds, as if by way of.

Professor MacCormick nods gravely. "Next time I come we'll have a ceilidh." Then the tiny plane is bouncing off again down the Brodies' field, heading for nearby Tiree, as Mr Brodie's. waders flap stiffly in a strange.



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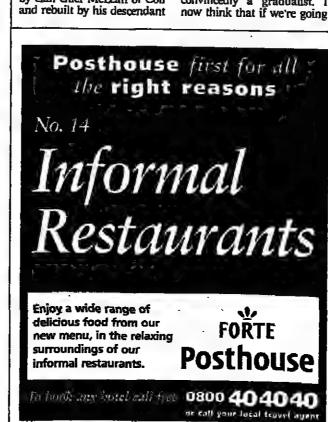
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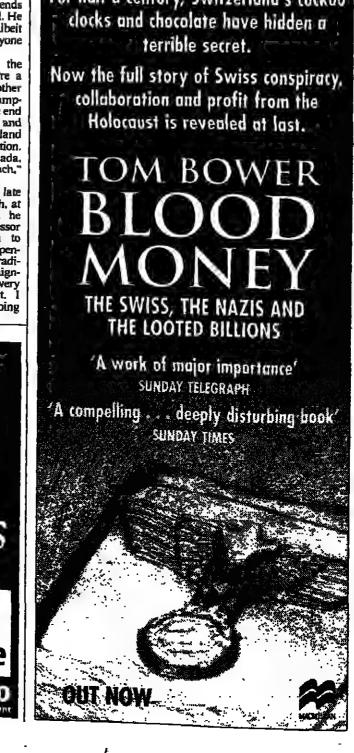
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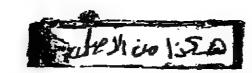
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PHONE OFFERS A



America's mixed army goes on trial

FROM IAN BRODIE IN ABERDEEN, MARYLAND

JURORS were deliberating yesterday at a courtmartial that hinged on sex and power and questioned the US Army's achievements in integrating men and women in its ranks.

Staff Sergeant Delmar Simpson, 32, a towering figure, faced 19 charges of rape involving six trainees under his command and three dozen other indecent acts against 22 women. He was portrayed as a sexual predator, but it was suggested that some of the women had turned sex to their advantage.

Sgt Simpson's case was the biggest brought against 12 drill sergeants accused of sex crimes at the vast Aberdeen army base on Chesapeake Bay, north of Washington.

To the army's dismay, the Aberdeen scandal unleashed a barrage of similar complaints. More than 7,000 women have called a telephone hotline, leading to 322 investigations of sexual abuse at bases around the world. The army's senior Sergeant-Major has been suspended, pending a sexual there is trouble at the West Point academy.

How big a quandary the

army faces is still emerging, but evidence supports the view voiced privately by many senior officers that co-educational training is failing and threatens military discipline. General John Shalikashvili, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said: "It's too early to say if this is a system problem or individuals who have done something very, very wrong."

One in seven soldiers is a woman, but Olympia Snowe, the only woman on the Senate armed services committee, says that integration needs to be reconsidered. She says a Pentagon survey showed that half the women in uniform had suffered harassment in the previous year.

Dinosaur treasure trove unveiled



One of the fossils of a chicken-size dinosaur, about 135 million years old, found in northeastern China

Scientists
thrilled by
fossil find at
Chinese site

BY NIGEL HAWKES ECTENCE EDITOR

A DINOSAURS' graveyard found in a remote region of northern China is being hailed as the richest source of fossils in the world.

Remains of primitive birds, mammals, insects, plants and dinosaurs have been discovered, apparently frozen at a moment about 135 million years ago when a sudden catastrophe, perhaps a volcanic eruption, wiped them out.

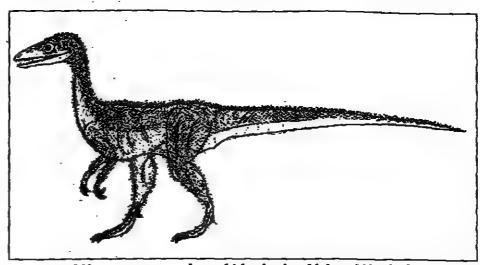
Among the most exciting

fossils are more than 200 of a primitive bird, Confucius ornis, and several specimens of a chicken-sized dinosaur, one with an egg still in its body waiting to be laid. Chinese palaeontologists have named this species Sinosauropterpar prima, and suggest that it may be the first true bird.

Inside another specimen of

Inside another specimen of the same species was the jaw bone from a primitive mammal that had just been eaten. The jawbone is about an inch wide and has sharp teeth.

Details of the site, at Beipiao Liaoning in northeastern China, were announced at a meeting in Philadelphia on Thursday by an international



A drawing of Sinosauropteryx prima, which scientists think could be the first true bird

team invited by the Chinese authorities to visit the site. The team was led by Dr John Ostrom, a refired professor from Yale, who said that seeing the site was one of the most exciting moments of his life, "Nowhere else in the world are fossils from such a critical time so well preserved," he said.

The first fossils from the site

The first fossils from the site were found by a local farmer, who recognised their commercial potential. Since then, Chinese palaeontologists have explored the site and begun reporting results. A remarkable feature is the excellent preservation of the fossils.

While many fossil sites only preserve the bones of ancient animals, the Liaoning site preserved surface features such as claws, scales and skin.

There are plant remains, insect remains, fish remains and land animal remains. It has just begun to be exploited. Dr Ostrom said.

The group, also comprising Dr Peter Wellnhofen of the University of Munich, David Bubier of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Dr Larry Martin of the University of Kansas and Dr Alan Brush of the University of Connecticut, were especially interested in fossils that may represent a transitional form between dinosaurs and birds.

These include Sinosauropteryx, which appears to have had feathers running in a line along its spine. Dr Ostrom described the bird-dinosaur's covering as "unlike anything we have ever seen in the world before — quite different from modern feathers or hair, but also different from the skin of other dinosaurs".

Other members of the group were more doubtful, arguing that the frill along the creature's back might be what is left of tissue that lay under the skin in life, or even traces left by bacteria as the animal decomposed. The small dinosaur is thought to be at least 120 million years old.

There was further debate about another small dinosaur, which the Chinese have called Protoarchaeopterya, arguing it is a primitive, featherless ancestor of Archaeopterya, long considered the first true bird. Or Martin and other members of the group doubt this, pointing out that it lived later than Archaeopterya, so could not be its ancestor.

campaign funding BY IAN BRODIE

FBI links

Beijing to

THE FBI has reportedly amassed substantial evidence linking top officials in the Chinese Government to attempts to buy influence among American politicians.

According to Washington sources, the Beijing officials approved the campaign-financing plan in 1995. The scheme allegedly continued throughout last year's election and still does so.

Intercepted secret communications between the Chinese Embassy and Beijing have now established that the attempts to buy influence were sanctioned by the Government, according to an account in The Washington Post by Bob Woodward, the Watergate reporter. Earlier, some White House officials had concluded that the scheme might have gone no higher than the embassy.

Officials refused to name the top Chinese who allegedly approved the plans, but one source said: "It's a pretty small top." He said that the two leading officials in China were President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Prime Minister,

The implications for Sino-American relations could be profound. The Chinese have strenuously denied any involvement, but were warned during recent visits to Beijing by Vice-President Al Gore and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, that it would be considered serious if it were proved that Chinese government money had been injected into the American political process. The issue seems likely to come up again when Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, meets Ms Albright in Washington on Monday.

Possible unsuspecting recipients of Chinese funds are believed to be at least six members of Congress, as well as last year's Clinton-Gore campaign warchest and President Clinton's legal defence fund.

Oklahoma victim tells of blast

FROM TOM RHODES IN DENVER

THE Oklahoma City bombing was relived in a Denver courtroom yesterday as prosecutors opened their evidence and played a tape recording of the blast to tearful relatives and victims.

Among the first witnesses in the trial of Timothy McVeigh, chief suspect for America's worst act of terrorism, was a Marine blinded in the explosion. Michael Norfleet, a decorated Gulf War hero, said he had parked his car just yards from the rented yellow van which blew up only minutes later, killing 168 adults and children.

Mr Norfleet, awarded an air combat medal during Op-

eration Desert Storm, said he saw someone he thought was a Marine leaving the van. He went to the sixth floor of the Alfred Murrah building. Sergeant Benjamin Davis, a colleague expecting promotion that day, sat on one side of the room. Mr Norfleet went to the other to talk to two other sergeants. He never saw Sergeant Davis alive again.

"I just about had time to get 'Hello' and 'Good morning' out of my mouth when the bomb hit," he told the court. A shard of glass struck his right eye and cut an artery in his neck. The Marine also suffered a broken nose and fractured skull, but managed

to walk down the stairs to safety. "I knew if I stayed in that building I would die." he said.

Mr Norfleet's testimonywas part of a prosecution strategy to shock the jury with intimate details of suffering to cover cracks in evidence, which fails to place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day.

Lou Klaver, a lawyer work-

Lou Klaver, a lawyer working near by, described the aftermath of the blast. "It was like a war zone outside," she said. "Everything was down in my office when I went back: the walls were down, everything was wet and my computer was stuck with glass shards."

Senate backs chemical arms treaty

By Our Foreign Staff

THE US Senate has approved a world treaty outlawing chemical weapons, handing President Clinton a major foreign policy victory.

The 74-26 verdict, clearing by seven votes the two-thirds majority needed for treaty approval, opened the way for the United States to ratify the pact, the Chemical Weapons Convention, before it takes

effect next Tuesday. Mr Clinton, who had invested much political and personal capital in a high-profile campaign to win approval for the treaty, applauded the vote—in which 29 Republicans joined all 45 Democrats to back it—and expressed his "profound gratitude" to the Senate for

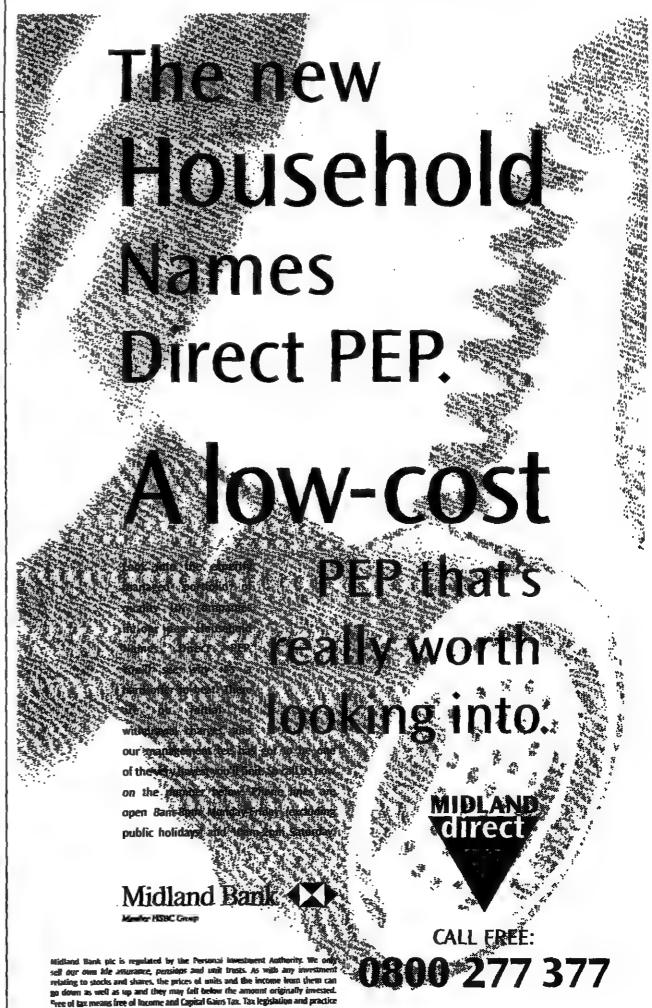
"serving America well".

Only the Senate is required to give consent to treaty-ratification. However, both the

the Senate will now be asked to pass implementing legislation on the chemical treaty. In Moscow, the lower house of the Russian parliament

yesterday postponed ratification of the treaty, saying that it needed Western funds and more time to destroy its stockpile. However, it backed a draft law committing Russia in principle to destroying its chemical weapons arsenal.

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Democracy tastes bitter for hungry poor of Mongolia

MONGOLIA'S dreams of a better life under democracy are fading. The country, with only 2.4 million people, is beset by poverty, with young frontier troops and children starving. Every day brings demonstrations and hunger strikes over unemployment, unpaid pensions and health and education cuts.

This economic pain is caused by the "shock therapy" of abolishing the centralised economy. As a result, a candidate for the reformed Communist Party looks set to win next month's presidential elections.

The problems facing this vast nation lying between Russia and China are familiar in the context of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, and the four-party Democratic Union Coalition, elected in a surprise win last June, still has three years of its mandate to run. But, given the collapsing social fabric, envoys and even Democratic supporters are uncertain if Mongolia's first non-Communist Government in 75 years will see out its term or if serious social unrest will break out.

There are certainly more cars on the street than there were eight or nine years ago, when this was still the oneparty Mongolian People's Republic. But there are also many more poor people, in-cluding hundreds of abandoned street children who sleep underground alongside the capital's hot-water pipes during harsh weather.

The sense of optimism after the inexperienced coalition's victory last June has largely dissipated under wrenching economic reforms supervised by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The lack of a social safety net has made matters worse. By the most conservative estimates, inflation runs at 50 per cent and unemployment at 15 per cent.

Foreign non-government organisations say Mongolia could soon be in the situation of being a major humanitar-ian emergency. "We know the reforms are necessary, but without a safety net it is suicide," said John Beauclerk of Save the Children in Brit-, ain. A Western envoy added:



James Pringle in Ulan Bator finds the pain of free-market reforms has boosted chances of a Communist comeback

There are credible reports of children starving to death."

At the same time, Mongolia now has a largely free press. Television news shows scenes of anti-government protests. and there is robust debate in the Great Hural (parliament). There is even a lively stock market complete with yuppies

with cellular phones. Genghis Khan, the Lord of the Universe, the country's historical hero, has been fully rehabilitated as the national symbol whereas, in Communist times, his name was barely mentioned in whispers.

But prostitution, underground before, is now widespread and few believe the official claim that the country has just one HIV case. There is growing crime, and alcoholism is on the increase. But a much wider variety of food. including fresh fruit and vegetables, and consumer goods are on sale in the markets, though accessible only to a

prosperous minority.
"Every third child is mainourished in some way," said Otto Farkas, of World Vision. There is a rapid collapse of the safety net and people cannot afford to buy food - 36 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line."

Seventeen children are reported to have died of malnutrition in one Gobi province,



Genghis Khan, back in favour on a poster

and in the capital malnutrition was "a major contributing cause of much infant mortal ity", said Mr Beauclerk.

ic reform, but our lives have become too hard," said a woman in central Sukhbaatar Square during a pro-Communist demonstration by jobless people in which the police made an arrest. In fact, nobody doubts that economic reform is vital.

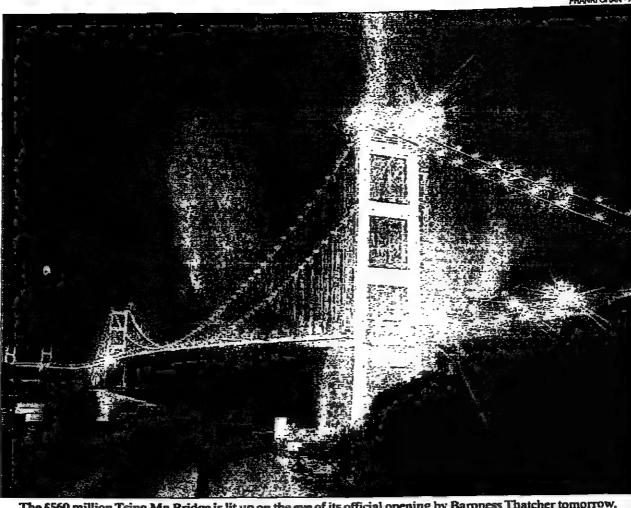
"We have corruption, poverty, street children, prostitution, indigent old people, alcoholism and declining edu-cation and health care, said L. Erdenachuluun, a former UN Ambassador and now adviser to President Orchirbat, 55, one of three candidates in the May 18 polls. "We have no money to ease the situation, and the prospect of

social unrest is real."

Ms H. Hulan, a Democratic MP and chairman of the Hural's social affairs committee, said: "Boldness is fine, but common sense and rationality are also important. People are suffering and are not happy with us. Patience is running

If the former Communist candidate, N. Barabandi, wins the presidency, the Democrats will retain their parliamentary lead. But the President has veto power over legislation and his veto can be overturned only by a twothirds parliamentary majority. The Democrats are one vote short of that. A President coming from the Opposition could thwart or dilute econom-

ic reforms, envoys believe. C. Enkhbayer, a business executive, summed it up. "Before 1990, life was beautiful. Everyone had just enough. But now the gap between rich and poor is growing. I don't want the Communists, again because I prefer freedom. I will vote Democrat because I believe it will some day provide a better future.'



The £560 million Tsing Ma Bridge is lit up on the eve of its official opening by Baroness Thatcher tomorrow. It will provide the main link to Hong Kong's £12 billion new airport which will be completed next year

Setback for Beijing as Clinton smiles on colony's liberals

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE meeting last week be-tween Martin Lee, leader of Hong Kong's Democrats, and President Clinton was a political triumph for human rights and the rule of law which Beijing cannot dismis

Equally, the cancellation in the same week of a trip to the United States by Tung Cheehwa, Hong Kong's Chief Executive-designate, is a political disaster for Beijing's chosen successor to Chris Patten, the Governor, which even Mr Tung's supporters cannot disguise.

It is not every day that Mr Clinton spends 25 minutes with a legislator from a medium-sized city. But Mr Lee is the leader of the party which won the most votes in the 1995 election for Hong Kong's 60member Legislative Council: China will abolish this body at midnight on June 30 and replace it with one handpicked to rubberstamp Mr Tung's decrees. Mr Lee's

HONG KONG COUNTDOWN

message during his recently completed month-long tour abroad was that, by expunging the wholly elected Legislative Council and bringing in ordinances to limit political activity. Beijing will violate its international treaty obligations to retain the city's essen-Americans are becoming

disillusioned with the Clinton policy of "constructive en-gagement" which claims that not confronting Beijing publicly on human rights, and even weapons sales to Iraq. Libya and Iran, saves Chinese face and produces gradual fiberalisation. Mr Clinton recognised, therefore, that it was good politics as well as good policy to see Mr Lee and

only general terms - that he "expects" Beijing to adhere to its treaty obligations to Hong Kong. Mr Clinton also is becoming aware that Chinese ambitions in East Asia, including reincorporation of Taiwan and domination of strategic sea lanes, may cool if Beijing realises Washington sees Hong Kong as a tripwire, not just a territory China can

reabsorb on any terms. It was acknowledged in the State Department that Mr Lee's talk with Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, persuaded her to attend the handover ceremonies on June 30, explicitly as a sign that America is committed to retention of Hong Kong's status not only as a trading miracle but as a key factor in the growth of Asian liberty.

Mr Lee is regularly denounced by Mr Tung for "bad mouthing" Hong Kong while abroad. But although Mr Tung had been planning a visit to the United States next month to set the record.

celled the trip while Mr Lee was on his way to see President Clinton. Those around Mr Tung realise that after Mr Lee's success. Mr Tung would have to be eloquent indeed to justify his curtailment of Hong Kong's liberties because "Chinese values" favour obligations, family and order rather than individual rights. Mr Clinton and Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, have made plain that how Beijing treats Hong Kong will be a bench-mark of its international

☐ Visa concession: America announced last night it would grant ten-year multiple-entry visas to holders of new Hong Kong passports after sovereignty reverts to China in July. Holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) passports will receive the same visa treatment now enjoyed by holders of Hong Kong British passports. (Reuter)

behaviour.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



UN envoy on Sahara mission

James Baker, the former US Secretary of State, arrived in Algeria yesterday in an attempt to resolve one of the world's most intractable disputes: the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario independence movement over Western Sahara (Michael

Binyon writes).

Mr Baker, who has become
a United Nations envoy, has had two meetings with King Hassan about a possible settlement in the mineral-rich former Spanish colony, most of which was annexed by Morocco in 1975.

Admiral sacked

Karachi: Admiral Mansur ul-Haq. Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, has been dismissed after widespread allegations of bribery concerning the pur-chase of military hardware (Zahid Hussain writes).

His removal came after claims that he had received money linked to procurement of Agosta 90B submarines from France and other

Clash kills five

Lagos: A man aged 75 was beheaded and four others were killed as ethnic clashes spread to Koko town in the oilproducing midwestern part of Nigeria, newspapers reported. Grenades and dynamite were used in the attacks, houses were set ablaze and the hospital in the town damaged. (Reuter)

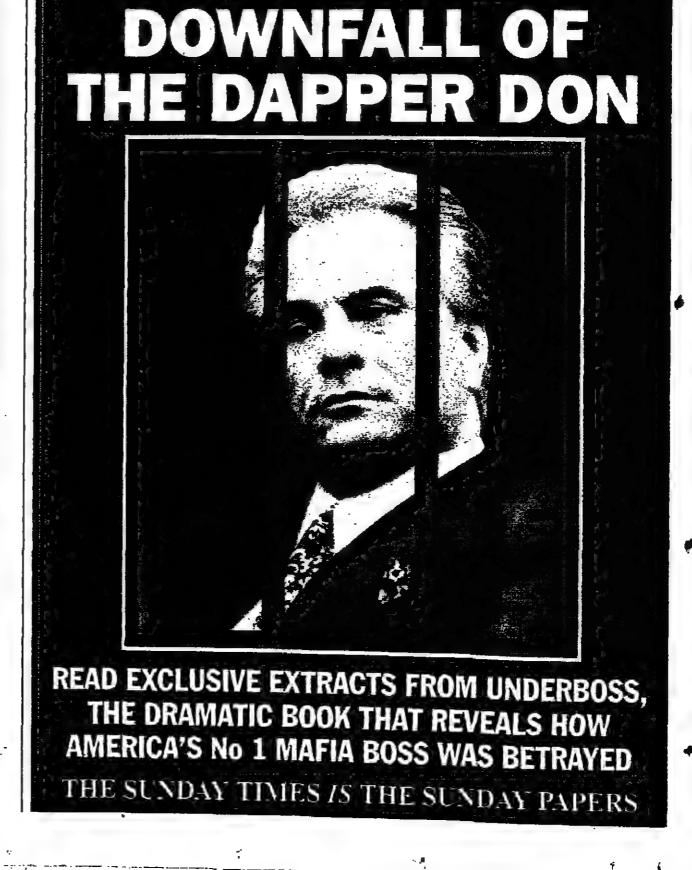
Suicide plan

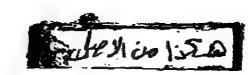
Los Angeles: Five thousand Uwa tribespeople in Colombia are threatening mass suicide, copying the legendary exampie of 17th-century ancestors in the face of Spanish colonialism, to protest at drilling by Occidental Oil on land they say is theirs. (AP)

Double trouble

Moscow: A puppet of President Yeltsin used in a popular weekly satirical television show has been stolen. A space that is a less convincing likeness is being used while a new one is made. (Reuter)







Gaullist squabble threatens Juppé as Gaullist squabble HIV cases poll lead shrinks

FROM ADAM SAGR IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, was under fire yesterday as cracks appeared in his centre-right majority's parliamentary election

Senior figures in the Gaullist-led coalition suggested he was uncertain of being reappointed to head the Government even if he wins next month's two-round election.

The speculation came as an opinion poll showed the Socialist Opposition catching up with a Government that en-joyed a comfortable lead before President Chirac called the snap election on Monday,

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Unublett

The poll reflected a bad week for the Gaullist Prime Minister. His popularity is in freefall, Gaullist Eurosceptics threaten to speak out, and transport strikes paralysed much of France yesterday. Industrial action, which hit

the railway network, Air France's domestic flights and ferry services to Corsica, highlighted the dangers facing M Chirac and M Juppe. They have pledged to continue policies designed to reduce the public deficit and prepare France for the single currency if the Centre-Right is reelected.

At a time when the French are concerned at unemployment of more than three million, worried about welfare cuts and irritated by repeated public-sector stoppages, the promise of continuity has lim-ited appeal. So, too, does M Juppe, according to an opinion poll published in Paris-Match, which showed just 25 per cent of voters are satisfied with his performance as Prime

Minister. At his first campaign meeting in Marseilles on Thursday, M Juppe, 51, demonstrated the communication difficulties that have contributed to his poor ratings. He looked stiff and austere as he accused the left-wing Opposition of "living in the wrong

The Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin. has concentrated his



Juppe: his popularity this week is in freefall

rise 33% in South **Africa**

FROM R. W. JOHNSON

SOUTH AFRICA'S Health Zuma, yesterday unveiled new figures showing that the number of people infected by HIV, the Aids-related virus, fire on his Gaullist rival. warning voters that if they elect the Centre-Right you will get five more years of Juppe". Last night he refused a television debate with M rose in a year by 33 per cent. In 1996, about 24 million Juppe, François Léotard, leadpeople, or 6 per cent of the population, were HIV-posi-tive, a rise of one third over er of the centrist UDF movement, and Robert Hue, the Communist Party leader. M

Tests carried out across the country showed that among ante-natal clinics the HIV rate increased by 30 per cent in the year, with one woman in seven now infected. Such women will inevitably bear HIV-infected babies. 80 per cent of whom are expected to die before the age of two.

In the province of Kwa-Zulu-Natal alone, 1,000 such babies are born every month Another 700-800 South Africans contract the disease ev-

ery day. Mrs Zuma, presenting the figures, commented simply that "this is bad news and it should be written in bold print". However, many Aids workers are highly critical of the Government's ineffectual efforts to stop the spread of the syndrome. In order not to offend conservative African social mores, all anti-Aids publicity carefully avoids being explicit. Typically, the public is urged to "join the new struggle — unite to fight against Aids", with pictures of demonstrating Africans in ANC colours, suggesting that the campaign is a sort of extension of the anti-apart-

heid struggle. Not surprisingly, many Africans are confused by such propaganda. There is no mention of condoms, or often of sexual practices in general. Dr Zuma indirectly gave support to such criticisms when she said that she had talked to young people and found that they only go with fat people because they could see thin people were the ones who died from the



French paratroops preparing in Brazzaville to assist in a possible evacuation of foreigners from Kinshasa

Fears over fate of missing Rwandans

BY DAVID ORR IN NAISONI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THERE is growing concern about the late of 85,000 Rwandan refugees in the jungle of Zaire's remote interior. Amid fears of massacres and human rights abuses by rebel forces, the United Nations yesterday confirmed that it had carried out an aerial search of the area where the refugees were last seen, but failed to find them.

The first priority remains to find the refugees," said Paul Stromberg for the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) in Kisangani yesterday. UN officials said they were horrified to find Kasese refugee camp, 15 miles south of Kisangani, empty of its 55,000 inhabitants when they visited it on Thursday. They had been denied earlier access to the camp by rebels of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, who said they

were conducting military operations.

The rebels, who control more than half of Zaire, are trying to overthrow President Mobutu Sese Seko. "I am absolutely shocked," said Filippo Grandi, the head of UNHCR in eastern Zaire, after visiting Kasese. "There was a camp here a few days ago. People were sick, hungry and too weak to walk. Now where are they? We need answers from the rebels about their fate."

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has dismissed allegations that his fighters have slaughtered many refugees. He says his men simply intervened to protect local villagers who were attacked by Rwandan militiamen. But the UN Security Council has condemned the rebels for obstructing the distribution of relief supplies and hindering attempts to establish the fate of

UN backs settlement boycott

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations General Assembly yesterday called for an international boycott of Israel's settlement activities in occupied Palestinian territory and demanded an immediate halt to a Jewish housing

project in east Jerusalem. The 185-nation assembly voted against the Har Homa settlement by 134-3, with only

Israel, America and Micronesia against. Germany abstained. The General Assembly first condemned the settlement project last month. However, it took up the subject again, holding its first emergency session since 1982. after the United States cast its veto twice in the 15-nation Security Council to shield Israel from criticism. America complained that the assembly was usurping the authority of

the Security Council by using a Korean War precedent to move an issue before the whole UN membership when the council is deadlocked. ☐ Jerusalem: Israel condemned the resolution as "a

Jospin said he preferred a face-to-face duel with the

His tactic is working. An

opinion poll published by Le

Point said the Gaullist-led

coalition is losing ground and

stands to win a majority of just

three seats. In the outgoing

parliament, it had a majority

of almost 200. Voters find M

Jospin's campaign, based on

the slogan "Let's Change the

Future", better than M

in an attempt to distract attention from M Juppe, some of his allies, including M Leotard, have hinted that M

Chirac might appoint a fresh

face as Prime Minister if the

Centre-Right is returned to

office. The French press had

assumed the President Chirac

would reselect M Juppé. But

even M Juppe has given

credence to the rumour, say-

ing: "In legislative elections,

one votes for a majority, not a

Leading article, page 23

head of government."

Juppe's, says the survey,

manifestation of unconscionable onslaught on a perfectly innocent act by Israel", said David Bar-Illan, the communications director for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. (Reuter)

Lima rebels 'were shot after surrender'

By Gabriella Gamini AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RELATIVES of the 14 Tupac Amaru rebels killed in Tuesday's storming of the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima complained yesterday that the authorities were not allowing their proper burial. The relatives also claim that they have not been allowed to view the bodies.

The claims come amid re-

ports that some rebels were killed after surrendering, some with a close-range shot to the head. Two teenage women guerrillas are said to have been heard pleading with soldiers, and crying "surrender, surrender" seconds before they were shot by the commandos who stormed the residence and succeeded in freeing alive all but one of the 72 hostages who had been held since before last Christmas.

According to La República, microphones hidden inside two guitars had picked up the women's desperate pleas. The newspaper quoted military sources as saying that intelligence services had recorded the surrender cries. The guitars were among various instruments delivered to the hostages by the international Red Cross during the 126-day

stege. Several of the freed hos-

tages, who asked not to be named, also said that they heard Maria Hoyos, 16, and Giovanna Esmeralda, 17. pleading for their lives. The accounts all agree that the two were unarmed in a room on the second floor when the troops stormed in.

Other witness accounts also indicate that the troops may have had express orders to execute the guerrillas, even if they surrendered.



*£10 per car supplement for travel on Saturdays to France and on Friday nights to Holland. £10 supplement for motorhome or minibus vehicles. £5 per car supplement each way for travel on Stena Lynx to Dieppe. **Price from London Charing Cross and other selected Connex South Eastern stations. Rail single travellers £16, Book, roil at least five days in advance. **Discount accommodation is compulsory for hight sailings to Holland, please call for prices. Duty Free offer subject to availability and per person for travel on Saturday to Dun Laoghare. On-board accommodation is compulsory for hight sailings to Holland, please call for prices. Duty Free offer subject to availability and per person for travel on Saturday to Dun Laoghare. On-board accommodation is compulsory for high Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a HM Customs limits. **Beer/lager not available on Stena Lynx service. UK equivalent price is a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a HM Customs limits. **Beer/lager not available on Stena Lynx service. UK equivalent price is a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a HM Customs limits. **Beer/lager not available on Stena Lynx service. UK equivalent price is a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity, taking the average of prices established in a notional High Street price for a comparable quantity and the second price for a comparable qua

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'Grand Inquisitor' emerges from the shadows of Vatican as concern grows over pontiff's health

Cardinal puts faith in doctrine

AS Pope John Paul II visibly declines, the éminence grise of the Vatican, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Bavaria, the Pope's "Grand Inquisitor" and chief doctrinal watchdog for the past 16 years, is building an ever

higher profile.
The frail Pope, 76, is keeping up a gruelling travel pro-gramme. This weekend he is in the Czech Republic, following his visit to Sarajevo a week ago when he braved wintry showers and an apparent attempt to blow up his motorcade. Next month he goes to Beirut, despite warnings of Islamic terrorist attacks, and to

his Polish homeland. The pontiff is defying medical

St Peter's looks to traditional sponsors STPETER'S Basilica is covered in scaffolding. The huge facade of one of the largest churches in Christendom was cleaned only ten years ago. But

the Vatican says that it is being "eaten away" by pollution and needs a fundamental facelift for the

With its pink and grey travertine marble - now sadly stained and grimy — the great basilica is a masterpiece of the Renaissance and Baroque.

ROME FILE by RICHARD **OWEN**

advice in setting such a pace. At Easter he delivered his Urbi et Orbi message sitting down for the first time, and his voice was so weak many were alarmed. In this fin de regime atmosphere. Cardinal Ratzinger is increasing-ly in the limelight.

The deceptively soft-spoken and white-haired cardinal was

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Archbishop of Munich before being summoned to be head of the Holy Office in 1981. The Office - properly called the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — is the modern successor to the Inquisition, and Cardinal Ratzinger has been ruthless in weeding out heresy.
In the past few months his

built over St Peter's tomb by the Emperor Constantine. it was completed a century later to designs by Michelangelo, Maderno and Cardinal Virgilio Noe, who is responsible for

Vatican buildings, said the Holy See was not seeking external help. "Divine providence and St Peter himself are our best sponsors," he said.

his views flooding the media. He has made nods towards liberal Roman Catholics, for example by suggesting that the decision to grant a divorce might be made by local bishops rather than the Vatican. He has also praised the reformed Italian Communists who, as the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), are the core of the left-wing Italian Government formed a year ago, and urged Italy not to turn away Albanian refugees out of "egoism". Cardinal Ratzinger's seventi-

eth birthday this month was treated as a major event, with two book launches and his photo-graph on the front cover of amiglia Cristiana, Italy's bestselling Catholic magazine. But the cardinal remains the stern guardian of orthodoxy. Last month he attacked Eastern religions, reflecting the Vatican's fear that many young people are attracted to Oriental faiths. A true dialogue with other faiths should not be "a journey into emptiness" but a search for "the eternal truth revealed in Jesus",



Cardinal Ratzinger has been a ruthless rooter-out of heresy

Sarajevo 'plot' hits gunman's job prospects

TALK of an Islamic plot against the Pope has put paid, for the time being, to plans for Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who tried to kill the Pope in May 1981, to gain "semi-liberty".

Agea has been serving a life sentence in Ancona for the past 16 years. He recently applied for a scheme under which well-behaved prisoners are allowed out to work on day release. A Roman Catholic bookshop in the nearby town of Jesi had offered him employment selling Bibles and sacred objects.

The former member of the terrorist Grey Wolves group claims to have repented, and has prayed for forgive-ness in his cell with the Pope himself. "Let him come," said Stefano Balducci. the bookshop owner. "His ideology and past are not important to us."

But Agea admitted this week in Panorama magazine that he may have to stay behind bars after the apparent plan to attack the Pope's motorcade in Sarajevo. He said he knew nothing about reported threats to the pontiff's life by "Turkish Muslim fanatics" and described talk of his links to the Mafia

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Ex-Governor attacks | Collapse of banks neglect of St Helena

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor A FORMER Governor of St Helena has accused the Foreign Office of prescribing the the island sick and causing distress by cutting subsidies in a doctrinaire attempt to

create a private sector. Geoffrey Guy, who re-mained on St Helena for 12 years after retiring in 1981 and now lives in England, criticised the Foreign Office for ignoring his appeals as Governor that Britain should honour the island's charter and restore the right of free access to Britain.

"Each time the standard line, deeply entrenched, was trotted out: 'We must wait until Hong Kong is out of the way before we can consider such a thing. Hong Kong is now almost out of the way, so what about St Helena?" Mr Guy said the Foreign

Office was dragging its feet because honouring the obli-

gation to St Helena might

mean considering the long-

term future of all remaining United Kingdom dependen-cies — "which it would rather not do unless it must". He said each territory was unique, should be considered separately and needed different answers. He noted that the Falkland Islanders and Gibraltarians enjoyed free access to Britain. Mr Guy poured scorn on

attempts to create a private sector by cutting subsidies. The geographical remoteness of St Helena and its lack of resources hold it in a double vice and preclude the possibility of significant development. In the past, the mere fact that people were able to emigrate to the United Kingdom and South Africa relieved some pressure."

Many of the first settlers on St Helena were Londoners who had lost all their possessions in the Great Fire of 1666. Now, Mr Guy said, their descendants felt imprisoned by the surrounding ocean.

shakes Macedonia

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN SKOPJE

MACEDONIA appears to be on the brink of a pyramid investment selling scandal similar to the one in Albania. Bankers and government officials are keeping a close eye on the trial of Sonja fraud and other offences in connection with the recent collapse of her TAT bank in nia. About 23,000 investors in TAT, the country's largest private bank, lost a total of DM130 million (£48 million), a vast sum considering that national savings on deposit are believed to total only

months have seen the collapse of other, mostly smaller. banks as investment dried up. Critics allege that local managers were involved with failed pyramid investment schemes in Albania. The managers, it is claimed, moved Macedonian deposits to Albania at very high rates, and then pocketed the proceeds. corruption.

DM200 million. The past two

The resulting crisis in the private banking sector affects the political elite. Ordinary Macedonian investors have lost some, but not all, of their savings and are unlikely to suffer the sort of mass economic hardship of Albanians. Opposition leaders claim that as much as DM60 million of the TAT money were state funds, manipulated by govemment ministers. Nikolovska's lawyers say that

senior ministers caused the

final collapse of her bank by

m. not

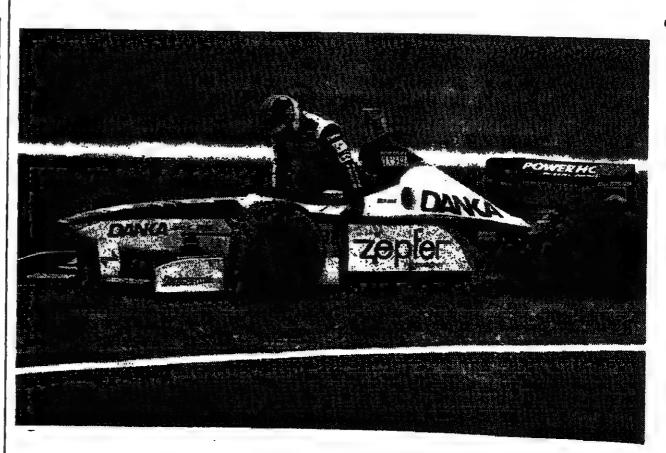
Mark Fran

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removing large deposits in January and February. Mrs Nikolovska was yesterday remanded on bail of DM1.1 million. The Government claimed that false records kept by TAT prevented the National Bank from uncovering the crisis until it was too late. The scandal comes at an unwelcome time for the Government of President Gligorov, which has been

THE SAN MARINO GRAND PRIX. BREAKDOWN 10P.

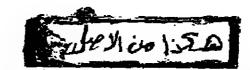


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CHANGING TIMES





OPINION

Apart from the National Lottery, how else have the Tories changed the landscape of British culture?



■ THEATRE 1

Escape the election: watch Emmanuelle Béart make her British stage debut on Thursday



THEATRE 2

A riotous dose to Inhale at Stratford East



ON MONDAY

Hello, Vegas: U2 unveil their new stage show at the start of a world tour

Il the experts tell me that A there are "no votes in the arts". That is one reason why this little patch of newsprint has been a blissful no-hustings zone until now. Another reason is that no party has offered an arts policy worth half a cheer. Mind you, Labour's "people's priorities" for the National Lottery, unveiled this week, certainly break new ground in one respect: when was the last time that a party went into an election touting a pledge to remove money from the arts?

But, just for the hell of it, let's pretend that there are votes in the arts. Let's look back at the past 18 years under the Tories. Have the good times rolled, or has it been Nightmare in Yobville Manor? Are we kinder to thespians and minor poets than we were in 1979, or have we been through a dark night of philistine pillage?

Well, by spooky coincidence 1979 was the year in which I first inflicted my preposterous views about "the arts scene" on innocent readers. I looked up some old articles this week, and you know what? If I changed the odd name

THEXINTIMES



of political incorrectness in Waiting

the arts world, though the recent desperate scramble to establish outreach" projects, "arts for ev-

eryone" schemes, "pay what you can" nights and "vouchers for

teenagers" does smack of guilt. No, the problem lies deep in our

education system. Learning to

enjoy art is a bit like learning to

swim: if you don't do it early in life, the fear of drowning becomes

overwhelming. But the arts are

More of everything, except punters

here and there I could recycle most of them today, and nobody except my mother would know.

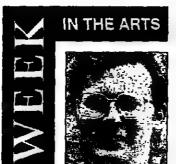
Back then, we were searching for a solution to the problem of London's five symphony orchestras. Approximately 47 solutions later, London still has five orchestras. We were worrying about glossy musicals by Lloyd Webber and others crowding serious dra-ma out of the West End. So guess which shock-horror arts story was in the papers this week?

What else? Theatre directors were predicting the imminent collapse of regional drama. English National Opera and the Royal Opera were taking turns to be in turmoil. Greece wanted its marbles back. British film producers wanted tax breaks. And we were all apparently being depraved beyond redemption by screen vio-

Some things never change. But what has expanded beyond all cultural life. You can praise the Tories for this, or you can claim that most of the developments would have happened whoever was running the country. But what you can't do is ignore the implications of this cultural Big Bang. Not if you want to devise a coherent arts policy for the 21st century. The fact is that, since 1979,

leisure choice has been expanded a hundredfold. That's good. But consequently the available punters are being pulled in a hundred new directions. So is the available subsidy, Without proper adjustment, that could be disastrous,

Consider the changes. In 1979 we had only three TV channels. No satellite. Video had arrived, but barely. No ordinary home had a computer. The Internet was but a twinkle in an anorak's eye. Niche radio, such as Classic FM, hadn't been invented. Britain had no multiplex cinemas or theme parks.



RICHARD MORRISON

The Barbican Centre hadn't opened; nor had the new concert halls and galleries now boasted by Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Belfast and many other cities. And Britain's now-flourishing Caribbean and Asian arts scene hardly existed.

be narrowly defined. They could be targeted through relatively few outlets at a sizeable band of the population who still shared the same cultural references. And they faced much less competition.

The Tories didn't increase subsidy to help the arts compete in the brash new world. But they did pull off a couple of useful conjuring tricks. They put political muscle behind the idea of corporate sponsorship — though they never gave sponsors the tax concessions that they get in America.

And of course they inaugurated the lottery. To its supporters it seemed like a painless way, even a "fun" way, to pay for culture. But something went wrong. Somebody (the buck-passing has been won-drous to behold) decided that iottery money could only pay for buildings, not people. In two years it has bankrolled enough pleasure domes to satisfy a thousand Kubla

Meanwhile, performing ensembles have withered for want of a few thousand quid. The spectacle has left the public bothered and bewildered, but definitely not be-witched. No wonder that Labour senses a vote-winner if it promises to plunder the lottery for homework clubs and designer health-

et ultimately the arts are not about finding cash, whether from Taxpayers Frustrated or Gamblers Anonymous, They are about finding people. And this is exactly what they haven't been doing these past 18 years. People have been slipping into comfy relationships with their TVs, computers, video shops, theme parks, bowling alleys. Many have lost their appetite for cultural chall-enge. Many never had their appetite aroused in the first place. That is not primarily the fault of

now horribly downgraded in our state education system. The curriculum marginalises them. Peripa-tetic music teaching has been slashed. Head teachers, fretting about managing their own budgets, no longer regard theatre trips as feasible, or even valuable. It's all very sad. A generation is being alienated from serious culture before it reaches voting age. For that piece of centralised dumbing-down you must blame the Tories. But for not having a credible plan to reverse the trend you have to despise Labour too.

Not much of a choice on Thursday,

then. But as we agreed a thousand

words ago, there are no votes in

THEATRE: What can you do on May 1 apart from the obvious? Daniel Rosenthal finds some options. Plus review

Right on, not right-on

mer school teacher, is big, black and very funny. His revue-style show. Waiting to Inhale, is a shameless inversion of Whitney Houston's women-bitching-about-men movie (not to mention Teri Macmillan's novel). Waiting

On a stage dominated by a large zebra-skirmed sofa, Schumann and his brassy cast (Sandra Bee, Ninia Benjamin and Wayne Rollins) pose such indelicate questions as "why do men lie?" In a series of sketches in which men behave badly with women, Schumann cheekily suggests that

Waiting to Inhale Theatre Royal. Stratford East

men are always getting the rough end of the stick. Butter doesn't just melt, it dribbles down his chin and all over his powder-blue tent of a shirt.

Schumann's genius is that he divides his audience like a cheese slice. Having incited the males in the auditorium to call him "leader", à la Gary Glitter, he dips into his assortment of Benny Hill-type wigs and conjures up those loaded moments in all relationships: when boy meets girl, why girl should have sex with boy, etc. Because of his bulk and hopelessly see through patter, the women score heavily, even as the males in the audience cheer his unsubtle logic.

Somehow it doesn't matter that Schumann is a hopeless actor (his cast outstrips him by miles): it fits neatly with his hopeless sexual dissembling. Sometimes, as in his Barry White routine, he doesn't even bother to tart up the sexism at all. Unbuttoning his vast shirt and threatening to flash his bottom, he ogles a terrified young girl in the audience. I've never seen a revue audience so keen to give an actor a

handbagging. The pay-off is that Schumann gets an awful lot more rope to work with. In fact, an entire new character. The cast had more barracking than they knew what to do with. "It's just a play," someone shouted deep in the second half. But everyone knew it had long since ceased to be that.

> **JAMES** CHRISTOPHER

9.000 fo

veteran

Curtain up on election night

huge significance for the nation, heralding an event which thousands have been awaiting for years. I refer, of course, to the British stage debut of Emmanuelle Béart, star of Manon des Sources and Mission: Impossible.

While Peter Snow applies the last few drops of oil to his swingometer, Béart will be preparing for the first of three performances (in French. with surtitles) of Strindberg's Playing With Fire at the

Nottingham Playhouse. One of France's most beautiful actresses playing Kerstin, a manipulative Swedish adulteress. in a production from the acclaimed Swiss director Luc Bondy enough, surely, to entice all but the most Eurosceptic theatregoer away from wall-to-wall TV punditry.

Béart's visit scheduled months ago. so the clash with the election is merely coincidence for the Playhouse's box office. But other venues are wooing voters away from cam-

As soon as John Major had named the day, the Bristol Old Vic sent out a mailshot announcing that its box office staff were suffering from "election fever" and would give a discount of up to £16 to anyone buying advance tickets for both A Taste of Honey and The Amen Corner. "We thought it would give people a good reason to escape from the campaign," says press manager Jane Ellis. "The response was excellent."

save every member of the audience a minimum of £5.50 - that's more than any politician can guarantee."

An "Election Week Special" at the Royal Court will knock £3 off £18 seats for Ayub Khan-Din's East is East on April 29 and 30, and on May l all tickets will cost £5. "People somehow feel obliged to watch TV from six o'clock on election night, waiting and waiting for something to happen," says Jess Cleverly, the Court's marketing manager. "We're saying 'Have an enjoyable evening out and you can still be

6 We're like another bunch of jokers I could mention 7

paign coverage with the theatrical equivalent of tax cuts.

At the Tricycle in north London, all seats for the May I performance of The Mai, Marina Carr's awardwinning play about seven Irish women, will cost £2, compared to the normal £7.50-£13, "Read my lips," announces Nicholas Kent, the Tricycle's artistic director. "We will

home in time for the first result." Performers planning special election night shows (but no discounts) in London include the News Revue team at the Canal Café Theatre. "We couldn't miss an opportunity like this. says its director. Richard Hurst. "News Revue has been going since 1979 — like another

Summit.

bunch of jokers I could Captained by Lee Hurst, a team of eight stand-ups will keep the political gags coming from 11.30pm until "very, very late" in the Comedy Store. At the Riba Architecture Centre, RaliRali (aka brothers Barnaby and Jonathan Stone) will celebrate the end of six weeks of politicking" with a one-off version of their award-winning satire, The

Those who find actors playing MPs preferable to the real thing can choose from four plays which all provide a historical spin on timeless political issues. In Manchester on May I, the Royal Exchange has Paul Godfrey's The Candidate. which charts the frantic run-up to a provincial polling day in late 19th-century France; while the Opera House hosts Peter Hall's production of An Ideal Husband, with Wilde's 1890s Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs facing ruin over an insider trading scandal.



Prettier than Paxman: French actress Emmanuelle Béart is one election-night distraction, making her British stage debut in Sheffield

In London, the Old Vic repertory includes a May I matinee of Harley Granville Barker's tale of Edwardian sleaze and suicide among the political classes, Waste (also directed by Hall). Then stroll across Waterloo Bridge after the final curtain and you will reach the Aldwych in plenty of time for

Stephen Churchett's fine new play, Tom and Clem, which brings together the radical Labour MP. Tom Driberg, and Clement Attlee at Potsdam in the aftermath of the latter's 1945 landslide election victory.

At last week's press night, when one character explained that she had just voted Labour for the first time because "the Tories haven't delivered the goods after all these years", the audience burst into warm applause. Just imagine what the reaction might be next Thursday

night, The first ten people who call at the Royal Exchange's Albert Square box

office on May I carrying that day's copy If The Times can collect a pair of free tickets for The Candidate (subject to availability). Tricycle 0171-328 1000; Royal Court 0171-565 5000; Canal Cafe 0171-289 6054: RIBA 0171-631 0460: Comedy Store 01426 914433; Manchester Opera House 0161-242 2509: Royal



f Scottish Opera is the company most under threat in these islands. then a success like their first-ever staging of Saint-Saëns's opera should do their morale - and their reputation - a power of good. It's an ideal work with which to display the prowess of orchestra and chorus, and under the idiomatic guidance of the French conductor Frédéric Chaslin both were on sterling form. especially the latter, from their first pianissimo "Dieu!", sung flat on their backs both in

darkness and in unison. As with last year's Idomeneo, a shortage of funds resulted in a nice balance of virtue and necessity at the Theatre Royal. The designer Antony McDonald also direct-

Miles better than run of DeMille

OPERA

Samson et Dalila Glasgow

ed. His plain, skewed surfaces brought few surprises, and at times seemed almost too austere for a piece usually given the full Cecil B. DeMille treatment. Delilah's residence in the Valley of Soreck did not look inviting - she appeared to live under a slab of concrete - but once the lighting designer Wolfgang Göbbel got to work with his washes of indigo and wine, it became the most seductive of love-nests.

As director, McDonald gently and not-too-specifically updated the action to the time the Dreyfus Affair, with Abimelech (Christopher Purves) in French army uniform mocking the Hebrews' prayer rituals and deserving everything he got. The company cannot afford dancers, so

the Bacchanale was performed by the chorus as a sort gluttony ritual, complete with hot towels being handed before they got down to some serious Jew-baiting. The effect was perfectly horrible, and the way the men were on collars and leads suggested that the Philistines had problems quite apart from being unsound on The production, sung in

clear French, was imagina-tively cast, with two young Americans making their debuts in the title roles. Mark Lundberg, a big man with a big voice, was formerly a baritone and sounds like it. He has retained the weight in his lower register and his new top is fully integrated, easy and unforced, and while he is not the most expressive of actors, he delivered Vois ma misère with the soul-searing intensity of a Jon Vickers.

Carolyn Sebron's sumptuous, even mezzo was ideal for Delilah. Her still, statuesque presence was well used by McDonald and together with Lundberg (and Chaslin) she made Sofity awakes my heart just what it is — one of the seriest love duets in all orders. sexiest love duets in all opera. Robert Hayward, got up as Rasputin rather than an Archbishop of Paris, made a hairraisingly barmy high priest, every word of his "final solution" aria spat out with crazed venom. A thoroughly invigorating evening.

RODNEY MILNES



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Children of the Puffin age, read on

Let's save Kaye Webb's legacy

for posterity, says Valerie Grove

have a lingering memory of Kaye Webb, doyenne of Puffin Books and founder of the Puffin Club, on her 80th birthday, surrounded by cards. letters from children, carefully written and drawn by them for "the Fattest Puffin". Her dynamism was responsible for turning on three enerations of children to the pleasures of reading — through the Puffin Club's magazine, competitions and outings. Many writers now in middle age can thank Puffins for their literary background.

Kaye's own incomparable library of children's literature. which lined the walls of her sunny Little Venice flat until her death last year, is now at Sotheby's awaiting an auction to be held on May 22 and 23. Kate and John, the twin child-ren of Kaye and her third husband, the cartoonist Ronald Searle, do not want their mother's relies to be broken up piecemeal and scattered. So Sotheby's has catalogued everything - the books, notebooks, Puffin memorabilia. drawings, club magazines and correspondence with writers such as Robert Graves, Max Beerbohm, John Betjeman. Christopher Fry. Laurie Lee, Patrick Campbell (who was in love with her) — as a single lot

(guide price, a modest £15,000-£20,000). It also includes much from her days as assistant editor of the literary journal Lilliput (where she discovered Ronald Searle) and the Young Elizabethan

Magazine (which first published Molesworth). A separate lot contains her correspondence with Walter de la Mare, the Poet Laureate: Kaye's English master at school had sent him a poem of hers, which he said showed "exceptional promise". When he was 80 and bedridden, she finally met de la Mare and thereafter went to have tea with him every Wednesday until he died.

There are letters from noteworthy children's authors: Eleanor Farjeon — "I like your books and I like your company" — John Masefield, Joan Aiken, H.E. Bates, Nina Bawden, Leon Garfield, Dodie Smith. Rumer Godden and, of course. Roald Dahl. Dahl became a mainstay of the Puffin empire, and I have a happy memory of my eldest daughter's name being picked from a hat when she was seven to go on a Puffin coach trip to Dahl's house, where he showed the children his gypsy caravan, his writing hut and his sandals and gave everyone a large bag of chocolates. Such events made authors and their work accessible. Every year at the Puffin exhibition, the queue for signed copies by Roald Dahl and his illustrator Ouentin Blake would stretch around the block.

"It is never cheek to ask me to sign books," as Roald Dahl wrote to Kaye Webb in 1985, "nor is it a bother. The bother comes when people stop asking me to sign them."

Obviously Kaye Webb's archive is a treasure that should remain in this country. But where? America is already well ahead of us in establishing collections of children's

literature: there is one at the University of Southern Mississippi, one in Minnesota and another private collection housed at Princeton. It would be sad if the Puffin Club memorabilia, a native British phenomenon, valued and loved by many parents and children, should go to America. But we have as yet no children's literature collection in this country, apart from small pockets such as Elfrida

Vipont's bequest at Manchester University. (And Roald Dahl's family plans to open a Dahl memorial centre at Great Missenden, which would bring families flocking.)

So the proposed Centre for the Children's Book at Newcastle-upon-Tyne will be wel-comed by schools, academics, parents and libraries. At least 60 British authors and illusdonate manuscripts, illustraready to provide sites on the Tyne. The museum is the brainchild of Elizabeth Hammill, who runs the children's book department of Waterstone's in Newcastle. She is an Anglophile American, brought up on Arthur Ransome, who has lived in Britain since 1971, is married

to an English academic and has rais-It would be ed two sons (one ex-Oxford, one still at sad if the Cambridge) on Puf-Puffin Club fin books. Waterstone's memorabilia

were to ject by allowing Mrs Hammill to leave Britain lend her expertise during a year's

leave of absence starting in May. The City of Newcastle has seconded a full-time staffer to help, and Brian Aiderson, for many years children's books editor at The Times, is on the embryonic museum's

The problem for the muse um on the Tyne, which now exists in all but fact, is that as yet it has no funds. Mrs Hammill is keen to acquire the Kaye Webb collection, which would give their museum a terrific start. They have applied for lottery money from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, and also to the Friends of the British Library; if they succeed they will be able to bid on May 22. I hope so: our literary heritage needs preserving on its home ground.

n 1978, Kaye had the idea of filling a lead-lined time capsule, buried under a flowering cherry tree near Heathrow, with 176 children's books, each inscribed with a message from the author, to be opened by the guardians' grandchildren in 100 years. Noel Streatfield wrote inside Ballet Shoes: "Imagine: this was written for you by an author old enough to remember Queen Victoria's coffin drawn by a steam train." By 1994, Kaye realised that contemporary children's computer-dominated lives had already changed so much, the 100-year time span might be fanciful: in 2078, would anyone still read books? As Geoffrey Trease wrote in the time capsule: "One thing we much enjoyed was called a book Don't know what that was?

For us, the drought is bad enough; for our birds, it is a matter of life and death, says Simon Barnes

e don't appreciate rain in this country.
This is a cold, damp island, the winter wearies our bones, and in the long, dark days we ache for the sun. Lovely spring day, we say now, as another remorselessly sunny day leeches the life from

blinds us to the facts of life. The rain it raineth every day, says the rueful song in Twelfth Night. Isn't it a lovely day - to be caught in the rain. sang Fred Astaire, but he intended delicious irony. God can't help the state I'm in, down Rain Street, sang Shane McGowan of the Pogues in a

the land. Our love of the sun

song of desperation.

Sun is the bringer of life, the spark that lights the green touchpaper and brings us spring. Each shower of rain is a little death: rotten morning. Brighter later? Hope so! Our climate forces such an understanding on us. just as in Africa, they long for rain and relief from the killing sun. In Britain, birds sing when the sun comes out; in Africa they sing when the sun goes in. But in both places, the

equation remains the same: sun plus water equals life. The order and proportions are different, that is all. Sun and water are both essential for the

Rain, wing and prayer bird and song thrush. Well, process of renewal. And the fact is that in this country, as have you ever tried digging one nice day follows another, your beak into solid concrete? we are in a state of looming The swards of the South East disaster. Another pejorative

term for nice weather is drought.
Killer stat: the 24-month period from April 1995 has een the driest for more than 200 years. This is a serious matter: for the processes of life are beginning to stop. We can tell this by looking at the clearest indicators of the health of any environment in our world: birds.

Birds are visual and aural creatures like ourselves; like ourselves they express themseives in colour and song. We understand birds better than we do our own class of mammals; that is why birds can explain for us the nature of the places we share. And they are telling us that the land is in trouble, in particular, the South East is in trouble: some parts have had no rain at all in a month whose leitmotif is the sound of showers.

There is concern for common birds such as the blackthat this is happening to

are as hard as cobbled streets. for there has been no rain to soften them. And even if a thrush could hammer like a woodpecker -- or, rather, like a pneumatic drill - it would do no good, because the worms he seeks cannot live in baked concrete, and must tunnel down to where there is still some vestige of damp. Adult birds can survive, because they know how: but the young will have no easy options and are likely to die.

A tactical ploy in this battle of life is not to breed at all. Breeding is hugely expensive. Where there is little food available and it costs too much in energy terms to collect it, the brood will fail. So don't even start. Try to survive for another spring, and seek to propagate your genes in easier

n ultra-conservative

There is increasing evidence

wetland birds. On nature reserves run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. where the habitat is deliberately manipulated to encourage breeding birds, there are ominous signs. The number of birds in these few wet areas, in which water levels are managed in bird-friendly fashion, has risen dramatically. There is nowhere else for the birds to go: the reserves are oases in a concrete-hard desert. There is no other wet grassland available. What they have is too crowded, there is too much competition for dwindling resources. Preliminary signs are

Kingfishers and herons are also finding trouble. When ponds, rivers and streams start to dry out and water quality falls, it is bad news for fish, and bad news for fisheaters. House martins, who fly in from Africa to feed on the annual boon of aerial plankton, are in a different kind of trouble. They build themselves

that some birds have nested

and abandoned: others have

not even started.

no mud. Building in concrete is beyond them. One wild bird food company is offering best quality mud for sale: leave a sachet out for your martins. It is a dire situation. It is also

that rare thing, an ecological disaster that we don't have to feel guilty about: drought is, if you like, an act of God. But human control of natural resources is a fact of life, and there are some points we must take on board. Efficient use of water should be a higher priority than profit: some water companies lose four gallons out of every ten from leaks. Why don't they repair customers' leaks for free, and offer incentives to install waterefficient devices?

And individuals can certainly contribute. A lawn sprinkler uses as much water in a hour as a family of four uses in two days. Rational use of domestic water is environmentally very sound. It is all an aspect of the most dangerous ecological misunderstanding of them all: less supply of everything. Food, water, minerals, forests, oceans, mammals, birds and fish. Profligate use of natural resources - in this case water - leads to disaster: first for birds, and, in the long-term,

There is also a very important, age-old contribution that can be made by everyone, as important a piece of eco-warriorship as any that could be contrived. Pray for rain.

My own hope is that the mere writing of this piece will cause the heavens to open. After all, I have served my time as a rain god. I have visited the Kalahari and found it filled with frogs and ducks after the best rainfall for two generations. I once visited the driest area of western Europe, the Spanish steppes, and got caught in a downpour then stuck in the mud. Had to tear up armfuls of precious habitat and ram it under the wheels.

Nor has my touch deserted me. Just as I completed these words, the first drops of rain in a month began to fall. It isn't enough, and it doesn't alter a word of what I have said. But, like the old joke about the politician buried up to his neck in sand, it's a good start.

The case of the two Blairs

What does the party's conscience

think of the cynical disciplinarian? o we have come at last to the

Reichenbach Falls. Watson has departed. The note has been written. Holmes and Moriarty face each other across the rope bridge, while beneath them the water tumbles into a terrible

No, they are not John Major and Tony Blair. One is indeed Mr Blair. clad in a dark suit and tie and with a maniacal grin. But the other wears a purple shirt and bouffant hair. It is none other than Mr Blair again. The two lock arms. They totter and the bridge sways. Grins become gri-maces. What feud can have produced this nightmare apparition?

The answer, says Watson, was more awesome than the Baskerville Hound, more fiendish than the Speckled Band. It was Labour in Pursuit of Power.

The past month has witnessed the most sustained act of political discipline ever staged in peacetime Britain. A party, a mass movement, an entire politicul generation, has been chloroformed. Men and women accus-

tomed to the rough and tumble of the hustings have been silenced. Across the land, the faithful have swallowed the purple capsule and been told to lie down and await instructions. How else to explain the silence of

the wolves, of Ken Livingstone, Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn, Dennis Skinner? How strange that the garrulous Diane Abbott should hide in her office rather than face a simple question from Matthew Parris. She could only stammer out a controversial "Tony Blair walks on water". Nobody promises anything except "better". The erstwhile John Prescott, the erstwhile Robin Cook, the erstwhile Clare Short are behaving not as politicians running for office but as Moonies. Odd things happen in the night. Labour candidates considered impure, such as noble John Gilbert, "disappear", to be replaced by creatures beamed down from

I watched last week as Mr Blair ranted and bored an audience for 20 minutes. He said nothing. He might as well have walked up and down the stage in a saffron robe, banging a tambourine and chanting "hare change, hare difference, hare deserves better, hare newness". I have listened to political speeches all my life. This was premier cru garbage. So what is going on?

The answer, I am told from on high, is a class act double bluff. I must not be taken in by my not being taken in. The game is clear and, if opinion polls mean a blind thing, it is working to plan. The Labour order of battle for this election was simple, to say nothing of substance, for whenever a Labour politician speaks something of substance, the voters run for the door. Last December the Shadow Cabinet ordered their programme takeaway from the Tory Treasury and left it at that. There would be no more taxes and, therefore, no more spending. For every possibly meaningful adjective there would be an instant antidote. Tough but tender. Radical but centrist. Change, but

> ment, but not in open Opposition. I am told further

that the discipline of vacuity would be Labour's final test before office. It would try the party's loyalty to near destruction and is meant to do so. To the Blair team this campaign is the climax of the great electability project. Mr Blair has argued, reasonably, that his reform of Labour was an indication of his canacity for radical government. During that struggle, he tore into his foes and laid bare his ideals, or at least his ambitions. Today, different tasks call for different methods. Mr Blair has bent his party to his will, to give it the chance of power. If it really wants to win, it must accept a campaign against the Tories in which absolutely nothing remotely Labour must be pledged. The message is no message. The line to take is a row of

I understand all this. Discipline is a real political virtue. It suggests, as is intended, that Mr Blair in government will drive hard and not suffer Mr Major's troubles. He has styled himself strong in the only way that an Opposition leader can, in his mastery of his party. He has never run anything but himself. That is not his fault and he has run himself well. Yet what of the other Mr Blair, the

one in the purple shirt? I assume — [

continuity. If there are any more specif-Labour's head, they are not to be repeople may believe in open govern-

hope - he has found all this

tended as the necessary conscience.

I do not expect Mr Blair to be a socialist, or a Crostandite public sector junkie. But I cannot see anything in the purple shirt that I recognise as "left-wing", such as equality in education, liberalism in penal policy, a leader less bossy than the Tories, less centralist, less vicious towards social misfits. Would Mr Blair send fewer people to prison, be more liberal on drugs, revive local taxation? From what I know of Mr Blair, the answer is probably yes, but it is a private yes, ideology is "off message", so is policy, so are concrete



Does the real Blair wear a dark suit or a purple shirt? He is a lawyer who believes in the right to silence

discipline as irksome as his colleagues. I like to think that he can feel the emptiness of his words, that behind all the waffle about values there are values, behind the waffle about radicalism there is radicalism. If the man in the dark suit is the necessary disciplinarian, the man in the purple shirt is presumably in-

nouns. Mr Blair is a lawyer who believes in the right to silence.

To watch Mr Blair's supporters at present is to observe agony emerging from ecstasy. They know that they are witnessing the most brutally cynical campaign to which Labour has ever put its name. From the working men's clubs of Accrington to the Garrick Club bar, Blairites have the nervous uncertainty of girls in the afterglow of love. The movement of the mouth does not quite match the eyes. It was marvellous at first, but what happens next? Above all, what did that man really mean?

We do not know. We have no inkling of what this post-Labour party - which Mr Blair on Thursday night claimed to be his personal creation - would do in office, or do that is different from the present Government. We know only that there is a conspiracy not to tell us and, more ominous, we know why the conspiracy exists. It exists from a fear that if the electorate was indeed told what Labour might do, it would not vote for it.

Mr Blair may be strong and is certainly disciplined. But he is not politically bold. He is no Lady Thatcher, telling the electorate what it ought to hear rather than what he thinks it wants to hear. If I have to look for a parallel as Labour leader, I would find it in Harold Wilson in the early Sixties. Wilson, too, bent his party to his will. He, too, ran an election on the basis of personal leadership and against what was then old Labour. The language of newness and the promise of change riddled his speeches. Wilson had Keir Hardie's values but, like Mr Blair. new ideas on how to implement them. Wilson also struggled with Wilson at socialism's Reichenbach Falls. It is often forgotten how completely he (or they) revolutionised the image of Labour in 1963-64. After a decade of disaster, Labour won four general elections in ten years.

The battle between the Blairs is nothing new. New Labour's electability project has been different in degree from previous Labour campaigns, but not different in kind. Political leadership is always Manichean, selfish versus selfless, expedient versus sincere, short-term versus long. The battle continues until it ends, as do most political careers, in some sort of mess. The metaphor holds. As Dr Watson reflected: There deep down in that dreadful cauldron of swirling water and seething foam will lie for all time the most dangerous criminal and the foremost champion of the law of their

But I jump too far ahead. Our two heroes are still there on the bridge. Their feet are firmly planted. My impression is that they have yet to draw blood,

House rules

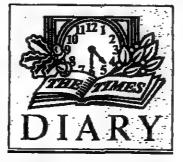
Howarth, the former Conservative MP who defected to Labour last year, is living among a bunch of well-to-do squatters which his adopted party has spent the past 12 years trying to evict.

Catherine Howarth, 23, was educated privately at St Paul's Girls School, where fees top £7,000 a year, and at Westminster, where they are nearer £10,000. She came down from Brasenose, Oxford, last year with a degree in history and is now a student at the London School of Economics.

While her mother Gillian, who is separated from Howarth, lives in a six-bedroom mansion near Hyde Park in Bayswater, Catherine squats rent free in a Victorian terrace house belonging to Hackney Council. With a friend from Oxford by the name of Harriet Jaine, she enjoys four bedrooms, a fitted kitchen and bathroom.



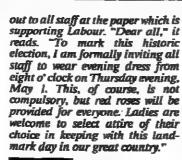
Catherine Howarth and her turncoat father, Alan



Hackney bought a number of properties on her street, London Lane, 12 years ago, hoping to develop them into ateliers for small businesses, thereby generating more than 300 jobs in the area. When the council turned their backs, squatters moved in. Catherine and her Oxford friend are but the latest to swell their ranks.

Lawyers have been hired to evict the posh parasites, costing several thousands of pounds. "Labour has always taken a very firm view on squatting," said the council. "It is against every principle of socialism. Those who are losing out here are the genuinely poor and unemployed." Yesterday, neither Catherine nor her father was available for

● A memo from the editor of The THE MOST despised statues in Sun, Stuart Higgins, has been sent London are being demolished to-



That's life

THE LATEST money-spinning exercise being perpetrated by the frightful Winnie Mandela is to hawk around her life story for British television. She has been trying to offer both the BBC and others the story for £500,000 - to no avail.

Although she hasn't given up on the television idea, she is now working harder than ever at her other inspirational fund-generator. known as the "garden project". Winnie. South Africa's Imelda Marcos sells bottles of soil from a garden she once shared with President Mandela for E7 each.

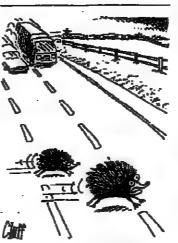
Down and out

day. The vulgar 8ft-high depictions of nine Greek muses which have "graced" the entrance to the Barbican Centre for more than two years are at last being pulled down on the instructions of John Tusa, the centre's managing director.

Staff are delighted that these

monstrosities are disappearing, for they are the final vestiges of Tusa's predecessor. Baroness Detta O'

Tusa was diplomacy itself yesterday. "The nine muses were a genume attempt to create a warmer,



The bomb scare is over. Run for it"

more inviting entrance to the Centre," he said. "However the muses have not succeeded."

Signing off

HEMMED in by autograph hunt-ers, Virginia Bottomley discovered life as a superstar when she canvassed in Peter Mandelson's Hartlepool the other day.

She was accompanying the local Conservative candidate Michael Horsley around the town when the pair were suddenly besieged by youngsters. She gladly offered her signature only to discover that the lads were after Horsley, not her they thought he was Newcastle's £15 million striker Alan Shearer.

 Explicit dress instructions have been sent out for the private view of The Open Sea, by sculptor Andrew Sabin, at the Henry Moore Studio, Dean Clough in Halifax. The installation resembles a cante-grid on stilts and viewers can either walk across it or underneath it. For fear of skirt-peekers, everbody has been advised to wear trousers.

In the swim

WHILE Stella McCartney prepares to add her student touch to



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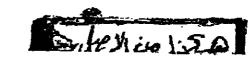
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र्म है। अपूर्ण

the French fashion house Chloe, down in Battersea another young British stitcher is cornering the market in swimming costumes. The 27-year-old designer Serena Momberg has been approached to supply beachwear for the next

Bond film. Tomorrow Never Dies. Her Lycra numbers could be worn by the next Bond girl, Teri Hatcher, better known as Superman's Lois Lane. "It's not finalised yet," she says, "but halter-neck cossies are in."

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BELOW THE BELT

Labour will regret its late electioneering on pensions

The Opposition has found it hard to reach a fixed position on pension reform. When Peter Lilley first produced his proposals, Harriet Harman described them as a "a really chilling prospect for hard-working families which would certainly spell the end of the basic state pension". Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, recognising that any responsible government would have to do something similar, took a more positive tack. The Labour leader wrote on the opposite page that the plans were a "bold" contribution that would "help whoever forms the next government to conduct the debate more sensibly". Frank Field, then wrote that "Labour should move decisively to claim Peter Lilley's inheritance" and it was reported that his article, for The Daily Telegraph, had been edited by Labour campaign managers to remove excess enthusiasm. This week Labour has returned to the Harman approach, adding to it statements which it knows to be false about the Tory threat to the basic state pension.

John Major was personally outraged by this attack. As he made clear in his interview with The Times, the commitment to the welfare state is a key part of what he sees as his political spirit and legacy. Although the Tory election machine is no stranger to the dubious allegation, the £12 billion black hole and the double-whammie on tax, for the Prime Minister this new charge was "contemptible" and definitely below the belt.

Labour's assertion that the Conservatives plan to abolish the basic state pension is an absolute lie. It is unedifying to watch Mr Blair and his crew peddling their falsehoods about pensions. These Labour lies are particularly uncomfortable from a Labour leader who has tried to build his reputation on trust and decency. That does not sit easily

beside the tactic of terrifying pensioners. No existing pensioners will lose their basic state pension under the Tory plans. Officially, no one over about 25 will do so though Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, has left open the option of extending the scheme to people older than their early twenties. Even those in the new scheme will have their pension levels guaranteed by the government. They will be at least as high as the current state pension uprated in line with prices. If the private pensions taken out by the new generation turn out to be lower, the State will top them up. In other words, the basic pension is not being abolished; it is being replaced, by an alternative that could be worth more, but will not be worth less.

It is possible for Labour to question whether a government in 2040, when the next generation retires, will abide by a guarantee given today by Mr Lilley. No government can bind its successors. But that is a political danger that applies to any longterm pension plan. It is also right for Labour to test the financial strengths or weaknesses of the Conservatives' plans. That is where its arguments have some force.

Mr Lilley's package is a far-reaching attempt to reform British pensions so that, instead of being paid by current workers, they are saved by individuals for their own retirement. But it is also expensive, costing some £7 billion a year at its peak, which comes just at the time when taxpayers will also have to be digging into their pockets to support the pensions and long-term care for those retiring between 2020 and 2040.

The Government claims that these costs can be "taken in our stride", an attitude that it would not take well from Labour. If the stock markets suffered some "melt-down" and all pensioners had to be topped up by the Treasury, how could the Government afford it? Will the Treasury be putting money aside to cover this possibility? And what will be the implications for public accounting of such an open-ended government guarantee?

These are legitimate questions to be asked of a policy that is right in principle but still poorly understood. Yesterday's verbal abuse will soon be forgotten. The longer lasting aspect will be that Labour has made it harder for itself to undertake in government what it knows in opposition to be necessary.

SPRINGTIME IN PARIS

An entente improbable between sceptics and communists?

The election campaign in France already has all the aspects familiar to ballot-fatigued Britain. The party leaders have hurled insuits at each other and cannot agree terms for a televised debate. Accusations of scan-dal and misuse of office abound. Je 200 has not made an appearance, but light is surely a matter of time. Those who booked a holiday in Paris to avoid saturation politics at home may now be less confident of their decision.

Jacques Chirac should be cautious as well. He called this contest despite a sluggish economy and a 60 per cent disapproval rating in the opinion polls. National Assembly battles are unpredictable creatures. On the initial ballot only those few candidates who exceed half the vote are elected. On the second ballot, contenders who have claimed at least one-eighth of support the first time fight it out. The parties of Left and Right normally seek arrangements among each other to avoid a division of their final vote. Whether or not they succeed usually determines the outcome.

The President based his gamble on three assumptions. The first is that the slow recovery France has seen will produce dividends at the polls. The second is that, while the two parties of the mainstream Right are broadly united, the Socialists and Communists will prove incapable of an effective electoral pact. Finally, M Chirac believes that the majority of those who align with either the National Front or the Eurosceptic Movement for France in the opening round will return to his camp in the decisive contest.

These assumptions could be undone by the issue - monetary union - that M Chirac has placed at the centre of his

campaign. The voters know that a budget based on spending cuts would follow the Right's re-election. Without such measures France would not meet the Maastricht criteria. A package that might destroy economic growth and boost unemployment may prove an unattractive offer.

Disharmony on the Left stems from different attitudes to the single currency. The Socialists enthused for the euro under François Mitterrand and still claim to do so in principle. But they oppose further austerity to achieve it in practice. The Communists reject EMU and would introduce a referendum on the matter. An impressive Communist showing on the first ballot would oblige the Socialists to move in their direction or accept defeat. They may choose to compromise principles to seize power. Supporters of the National Front and Movement for France would then have little reason to back M Chirac's candidates in the second round.

Any result other than an RPR-UDF triumph would destabilise monetary union. A narrow win for the Right would leave the Eurosceptic faction in a stronger position. A hung parliament could conceivably leave the National Front holding the balance of power. Victory for the Left would put the Communists in the driving seat.

Conservative Eurosceptics in this country are left in a slightly embarrassing situation. The British electorate cannot stop the euro but the French public can. For that the Left must defeat M. Chirac. Eurosceptics here require the Communists in France to outperform present expectations - an entente improbable but possibly still

SWINDON DES RES

This old house could make young prophets as well as profits

The Roman villa unearthed on a building site at Swindon seems to be palatial. Of course, archaeologists turning a new sod can sound as sensational as estate agents with a new property. But the evidence of mosaics, hypocaust underfloor heating, baths and serried vine terraces points to a palace. Something on the scale of Fishbourne may lie under this development in an area not previously celebrated for its gracious living or its importance in Roman Britain.

So far the recovery system has worked with the efficiency of ancient Rome in its prime. As required by planning guidelines. the developers have halted their mechanical diggers and called in the archaeologists. Talks with English Heritage and the Swindon council will now work out the best way to find exactly what is there and, if it turns out to be as exciting as it promises, how to preserve it. Swindon could give the developers an alternative site in compensation.

Because of new techniques, more archaeological discoveries are being made in Britain than ever before. The magnetometers and other geometric tools are discovering the street plan of Viroconium, Britain's greenfield Pompeii by Wroxeter. The Palumbo development at No I Poultry is filling in the jigsaw of Roman London. But however interesting, all this is short-term rescue archaeology on development sites, funded by the developers and carried out by competing commercial archaeological units.

The days of the great research digs, such as Mortimer Wheeler at Maiden Castle or Barry Cunliffe at Fishbourne, have gone.

At Swindon, however, if ground-penetrating radar reveals that substantial remains lie under the tip of the palace that has emerged, there is a chance for something better than hasty dig followed by feckless reburial. For the relics of the past can be a tourist attraction as well as an educational inspiration. Fewer pupils now learn their Latin irregular verbs. But primary schoolchildren who study Romans in the national curriculum know all about hypocausts and procurators. Thousands more study classics, archaeology, architecture and art at secondary school and university.

The architect Nicholas Wood's project to rebuild the 2,000-year-old House of the Tragic Poet at Pompeii in Britain as a commercial venture is attracting international interest. Replica mosaics, roof tiles and furniture have already been made for this villa, which was the inspiration of Bulwer Lytton's The Last Days of Pompeii. The committee has applied for a site at Greenwich. Now the developers at Swindon may have turned up an early native example of their trade. Preserving or restoring the Swindon villa could create a tourist attraction as well as a wonder of Wiltshire. So it might prove quite as proper a use of lottery money for education as homework clubs or literacy centres - and much more fun.

Major's faults, achievements and capacity to govern

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("Major is just not up to the job", April 22) is quite correct to point out that John Major's "leadership" has made the present Government the least electable for 50 that and granted the recepbility of a years and created the possibility of a dangerously massive Labour victory. Yet the validity of his analysis exposes the falsity of his claim that Tony Blair's capacity to fill the office better

is "another matter". On the contrary, it is the heart of the matter; it is the main problem the electorate has to solve, despite the efforts of the party spin doctors to obscure it. It is simply not true that the only argument for democracy is that it can eject poor governments, regardless of whether the alternative on offer is any

Despite Tony Blair's attempt to pretend that "new" Labour is simply Thatcherism with a friendly face, his boast of domination of his party is manifestly hollow. Old socialists and union barons are very much alive, and merely keeping quiet to full the electorate into granting them a new lease of life. Indeed, a large Labour majority might well open the way to a similar coun to that by which Ken Livingstone acquired the leadership of the GLC in 1981.

The ideal outcome of this election would be a Parliament so comprehensively hung that the long-attempted and urgently-needed breaking of the current party moulds occurs, and voters are once again given a genuine choice on key issues. As it is now clear that the biggest of these on May I is reversing Maggie Thatcher's sleep-walk into King Kohl's "Union of Roman Socialist Republics", a strong contingent of conservative (Tory, Liberal, Labour or fringe) sceptics is essential.

Yours faithfully, LEWIS STRETCH, 3 Laroc Close. Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.

From Lord Harris of High Cross Sir, Anatole Kaletsky acknowledges, rather temperately I thought, that the Government can claim "numerous worthy achievements", including defeating inflation and running a sensible economic policy. Yet the moment he turns to party politics, all show of

temperance departs.

In his effort to portray the Government as "the least electable for 50 vears", he ransacks the beginner's guide to polite abuse and comes up with "farces and fiascos . . . tragicomic asymmetry ... politically ineffectual leadership" etc.

"Least electable for 50 years"? Where was Mr Kaletsky in the Wilson era? Does he remember George Brown's National Plan or Crossman's national superannuation or Barbara Castle's In Place of Strife or Crosland's destruction of grammar schools, to say nothing of Red Robbo, Solomon Binding and the winter of discontent?

Mr Kaletsky's prediction of "the greatest electoral landslide for 50 years" recalls several of his treasured economics columns in which he tries vainly to explain away his own earlier mistaken predictions. Perhaps Mr Major should be heartened by gloom from such quarters as this.

Yours etc. RALPH HARRIS, 5 Canley Close, Wood Street, Barnet, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Tristan Garel-Jones Sir, Anatole Kaletsky asserts that the

Government is not up to the job and should not be re-elected. But he also asserts that John Major

is liked by the voters, has defeated inflation, run a sensible economic policy after Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism and steered a pragmatic course in relations with Europe. Some of your readers might think that these three issues of policy are the most im-portant facing the country today and, combined with Mr Major's popularity and decency, make the case for re-

Mr Kaletsky's debit list is made up of what he himself describes as a catalogue of tactical errors adding up, he believes, to ineffectual leadership. The leadership required to produce what Mr Kaletsky himself acknowledges as the Government's achievements is of a far higher calibre than the supposed tactical errors he prays in aid — each one of which, incidentally, is open to challenge.

Yours faithfully, TRISTAN GARELJONES (MP for Watford (Conservative)

12 Catherine Place, SWI. April 23.

crisis has demonstrated.

Lord Mackay's view

From Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Lord Chancellor

Sir. I do not accept the account of my views given by Mr Magnus Linklater ("Wrecker on the woolsack". April 24) on how the House of Lords might scrutinise any future preliminary referendum Bill. I particularly reject the assertion that my view "appears to challenge the right of the Scottish electorate to decide its own constitutional future".

My view is that decisions upon any Bill that may be put before Parliament for a referendum in Scotland should be made in the light of all the circumstances then prevailing.

However, in answer to questions from journalists I have said that if a two-question referendum Bill is proposed I would think it is essential that the arrangements on which the questions arise should be made clear in the

I give three examples of what I have in mind. If an assembly with tax-varying powers is proposed for Scotland, what would be the effect of establishing such an assembly on the financial arrangements between Scotland and the United Kingdom? What is the difference in this aspect between Scot-land and Wales? Would Scottish ministers answerable to the assembly have observer status only in European discussions instead of being members of the United Kingdom ministerial team, as Scottish ministers are

in the last paragraph of your first leader (same day), speaking of Mr Blair, you say:

But he is still tight-lipped on the two most important issues for the next Parliament: devolution and the single currency. Between now and May i, the voters want to hear cool clarity, not warm words.

So far as devolution is concerned this expresses succinctly what I have argued. Yours faithfully

JAMES MACKAY, Suite 1/1. 14 Links Place, Edinburgh. April 25.

Test of loyalties

From Mr Martin Cosgrove Sir, Laurel and Hardy have remained loved over the years. They have stood the test of time.

Labour may live to regret, in opposition, the superimposition of the faces of Mr Major and Mr Clarke in The Times (report and pictures, April 22).

Yours faithfully, MARTIN COSGROVE, Mornington Avenue, W14. April 23.

The rest is silence

From Mr Robert Bond

Sir, My most recent postal election communication came this morning. It was perhaps the most profound message I have received so far . The envelope was empty. Yours faithfully,

ROBERT BOND, 11 Wainalong Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire. April 24.

Election turn-off

From Mr Peter M. Wright

Sir, Eight hours of results (groan). swingometers (argh), Paxman (ugh). As my late grandfather advised of general elections: "Don't vote, it only encourages them.

Yours faithfully. PETER M. WRIGHT. Whinhurst, Portencross.

West Kilbridge, Ayrshire. April 24.

Politics and farmers

From Lord Plumb, MEP for The Cotswolds (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, I was somewhat surprised to read the headline, "Farmers' chief to vote for Labour", over your report (April 24) of the views expressed in the letter which you carry in the same issue by a former president of the National Farmers' Union. Sir Simon Gourlay.

In his letter, Sir Simon criticises the present Government's performance on agriculture, notably over the BSE crisis, and concludes that the Conservatives have forfeited the right to the support of the farming community. Like the rest of us, Sir Simon is of course entitled to vote as he deems fit.

As the leading organisation representing farmers, the NFU has continued to maintain a strictly neutral position on party politics. It must be free to criticise or praise the government of the day, and more importantly work with it for the benefit of the food and agricultural industry. That is exactly

al political views.

Water supplies From Wing Commander

Derek Martin

Sir, Mr J. A. Meacham (letter, April 22) suggests that the next Government might renationalise the water companies. But the water industry was never nationalised. It belonged to the people through their local authorities.

In the mid-1980s the Government

seized what was already owned by the people and sold it to them, so that they paid to become shareholders instead

Yours faithfully, DEREK MARTIN (Member of Board, Thames Water, 1981-83), Cobble Wood Cottage, Medmenham. Marlow, Buckinghamshire. April 22.

From Mr David B. Walton

Sir, Five days ago I noticed that all the cows in the surrounding fields were lying down. As a child, I was assured that this was a sign that rain was on its way. So far none has fallen.

Does this mean that the cows' forecasting ability has been affected by global warming, or that they were simply exhausted from standing around, waiting?

Yours faithfully, DAVID WALTON, The Old Rectory, Tretire, St Owen's Cross, Hereford. April 23.

Old school ties

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

(April 24). Not for him or for others who have not been given a fair chance in our society, but for the health and wealth of our nation. We need the best of the talents of all

against people of talent because they are from the wrong background is a handicap we simply cannot afford any longer.

Are Blair or any of the present bidders for power likely to do any-thing about this debilitating scandal? They show no sign of it.

anyone to offer a job simply on the basis of background or personal acquaintance. An extension of our

what the NFU's current leaders have

done, as their stewardship of the BSE

I have a different view from Sir

Simon. The present Government has faced the deepest crisis to hit British agriculture in living memory with both fornitude and generous support. I believe that many farmers who would have gone under but for the rescue measures taken by the Government will remember that when they come to cast their vote.

HENRY PLUMB. (President, NFU, 1970-79), European Parliament. Rue Belliard 97, 1040 Brussels.

From Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton Sir, The National Farmers' Union has always been apolitical. As a member i object to our past president using his position to add credence to his person-

Yours faithfully, E. D. LEIGH-PEMBERTON, Longcot House, Faringdon, Oxford. April 24.

Doctors' pay

From Rear-Admiral J. R. Hill

Sir, I wonder where Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, a former chairman of the Brit-ish Medical Association, got his figure of E12 billion a year for the cost of Trident (Valerie Grove interview, April 18). Twelve billion pounds is the cost of the whole Trident programme, spread over some 15 years.

By all means let the merits of Trident be discussed vis-a-vis the proposal for £80,000-£100,000-a-year doctors; but from a basis of correct facts,

Yours sincerely. RICHARD HILL Cornhill House, The Hangers, Bishop's Waltham, Southampton, Hampshire. April 19,

Girl power

From Mrs Anne Louise Curry

Sir, I have come to the conclusion that The Spice Girls have finally made it as stars. They appear on the front cover of the April issue of Accountancy the journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Yours sincerely, ANNE LOUISE CURRY. Applewood, l Ashley Close, Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey. April 24.

Sir, How desperately depressing is Jason Cowley's article "Power, glory and the advance of the old school tie"

our citizens to be applied to our problems if we are to succeed in this fiercely competitive world. Choosing our leaders and our

captains of industry from a small selfperpetuating elite and discriminating

I think it should be illegal for

present Equal Opportunities legislation ought to be able to deal with that. Yours faithfully. L. T. ROACH, 43 Ripon Way,

Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. April 25. From Mrs Diana May

Sir, The caption mentions Eton: the picture is clearly Harrow. How good to find The Times supports the egalitarian tone of Cowley's article by em-ploying people presumably educated elsewhere.

Yours etc. DIANA MAY, 265 Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, Middlesex. April 24.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -D171-782 5046

Costs of shopping in our city centres

From Mr James I. Dunnett, RIBA

Sir. The trouble with Simon Jenkins's implication ("Out of town, out of mind", April 19) that new shopping developments should be directed to-wards cities is that because of their scale, demand for wide, uninterrupted floor spaces, generous turning circles and headroom for delivery vehicles, good car-parking and standardised shop-front styling, they can be extremely destructive of urban qualities

Even in a place as carefully protected as Cambridge the effect of such pressures on an old centre can be felt. There is a point of view that many

older French towns have survived better because shopping "sheds" have been permitted in a close circle round them. The present volume of consumption is unprecedented, and with it the simple need to get goods in and

quate access for those without cars, as well as those with, are certainly difficult, but there is a case for saying that new developments should be sited alongside, rather than in, existing centres both for their own good and that of the old centres.

Yours faithfully, JAMES DUNNETT. James Dunnett Architects. 142 Barnsbury Road, NJ. April 23.

From the Director of the CPRE

Sir, Simon Jenkins is right to suggest that no one has calculated the costs to the UK of the growth of traffic and ur-ban sprawl. But the reckoning has

started elsewhere. Academic research in the US has examined the costs inherent in building and servicing car-dependent, lowdensity development and the answers

are not encouraging. Low-density development on the suburban fringe can have infrastructure costs up to 50 per cent higher than more compact development in urban areas. This adds to reliance on the car, which already consumes 13 per cent of an average UK household's income, and the damage to the countryside.

Yours sincerely. FIONA REYNOLDS, Director, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Warwick House, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, SWI.

April 23.

From Mr Michael Moynihan Sir, "An ancient town centre deserted and gasping for commercial breath. Simon Jenkins's depiction of Chichester as a prime victim of out-of-town supermarkets and ring roads is well off

the mark. On any fine day the semi-pedestrianised centre is overcrowded with shoppers, a magnet for buskers, restaurants and pubs humming, the twice weekly open-air market doing brisker business than the former cat-

tie market. What increasing numbers of tourists see is a predominantly Georgian cathedral city, cosily enclosed in its lofty medieval walls, from which the prospect, though no longer of water meadows, is more of parkland and playing fields than "traffic jams and

suburban estates". Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MOYNIHAN, Nuthaich. Fletcher Close, North Mundham, Chichester, West Sussex. April 22

Weapons and wildlife

From Mr Richard Micklethwait

Sir, I was interested to read of the inquiry into the expansion of Army training on the Otterburn range ("Army big guns threaten peace of na-tional park", April 23), living as 1 do near another MoD base, at RAF Caer-

went in Monmouthshire. Environmentalists may object to such development, but the biodiversity of these sites depends on limited public access. At Otterburn you report that the public are excluded for 300 days of the year.

The population of merlin, black grouse, ring ouzel and other wildlife is far more likely to thrive with more weapon-testing than with unrestricted public access. The anti-personnel fence surrounding RAF Caerwent is a considerable wildlife asset and, as at Otterburn, much of the community around the former village of Dinham on the Caerwent site supports ongoing military use.

Yours faithfully. RICHARD MICKLETHWAIT, Penhein, Nr Chepstow, Monmouthshire. April 23.

Late motherhood

From Mrs Anne Rhodes

Sir, Reports today (April 25) suggest that, at 63, a woman in California is the oldest woman to give birth. Surely the previous record still stands as Sarah, wife of Abraham, who bore him a son when she was in her nineties (Genesis, xvii, 17 and xxi, 1-4).

Yours faithfully, ANNE RHODES, Little Roughwood. 7la Coothorne Road. Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. April 25.

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COURT CIRCULAR

Palmer.

WINDSOR CASTLE April 25: The Duke of Edinburgh. Colonel-in-Chief, this evening ar-tended the Annual Dinner of the Intelligence Corps at the Painters' Hall, Little Trinity Lane, London

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Beistead (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk) at the Memorial Service for Sir Joshua Rowley. Bt (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk) which was held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Ed-

munds, today.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Lord Tollemache. The Princess Royal was repre sented by the Countess of Lichfield.
Princess Alice, Duchess of
Gloucester was represented by

Mrs Michael Harvey.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Major Nicholas Barne. The Duke and Duchess of Kent

Christening

The second son of Mr and Mrs Merlin Hutchings was baptized Mylo Arthur Hinton by Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, at the Temple Church on Sunday, April 20, 1997. The god parents are Juliet Quintin-Archard, Caroline Weaver, Hugh Harvey-Kelly, Barry Leighton and Andrew Culshaw,

Mill Hill School

Term started on Monday, April 21. Matthew Frise is Senior Monitor and Marc Dweck Captain of Cricket. The School is pleased to announce that it has received a European Curriculum Award for its European Initiative pro-gramme. The Bishop of Edmonton will preach at Confirmation Serwith present at Continuon service on May 19. Old Millhillians Day will be held on June 22 when all former pupils from the years 1970-90 are invited to lunch (further details from the Headmaster's Secretary). The Challenge of Leadership will take place from June 23 to 26. The 1st XI will leave for their cricket tour to the North of England on July I. End of term will be July 3.

Kelly College

Mr D.W. Ball, MBE, MA, Headmaster of Kelly College, Tavistock, from 1972 to 1985, has been appointed a Governor.

Rome. 121; Leonardo da Vinci, painter, sculptor, architect and Audubon, naturalist and artist, Les Cayes, Santo Domingo, 1785; Alfred Krupp, industrialist, Essen. 1812; Artemus Ward (pen name of Charles Farrar Brownel, writer. Waterford, Maine, 1834: Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Kaesong, 1875; Rudolf Hess, Nazi war criminal, Alexandria, Egypt, 1894; John Grierson, documentary film pro-

DEATHS: Jeremy Collier. controversialist. London, 1726: Carl Bosch, chemist, Nobel laure-ate 1931, Heidelberg, 1940; Sidney James, actor, Sunderland, 1970; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress. London, 1980: William (Count) Basie, Jazz bandleader and pianist.

Florida, 1984. The Great Plague began in John Wilkes Booth, actor, the assassin of President Lincoln April 14), was shot dead by troops,

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 25: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), today visited the 1st Battalion at the Cinque Ports Training Area, Lydd Camp, Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent. KENSINGTON PALACE April 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present

were represented by Mr Andrew

this evening at a Concert and Dinner, held in aid of the St George's School, Windsor Castle, Development Campaign, at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant

of Greater London (Field Marshal The Lord Bramall, KG). THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

April 25: Princess Alexandra and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy. today attended the Memorial Service for Sir Joshua Rowley. Bi which was held in Bury St Ed-munds Cathedral, Suffolk.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Air Force GROUP CAPTAIN: R H Kinzett

HQ DSCA, 28.4.97 WING COMMANDER: G A Bowerman - Dryad MWC, 14.4.97; A J Boyd - D of Defence Progs, 14.4.97; R B Cunningham - RAF Akrotiri, 14.4.97; M V Godfrey -SHAPE Int Staff, 14.4.97; D J Keenan - MOD, 14.4.97; A T Bake -RAF Benson, 28.4.97; R Ashen-hurst - RAF Coltishall, 30.4.97.

Royal Marines Association

The Mayor and Councillors of Dover, the Aiderman of Zeebrugge and Mr David Shaw attended wreath laying ceremonies in Dower yesterday to mark the raid on the Zeebrugge Mole. The Rev Basil Watson led the prayers. Lord Keyes, Lieutenant-Colonel H.H. Player, RMR, Colonel R. Burford. HAC, and members of the City of London branch of the Royal Marines Association were present.

World Traders

The following have been elected officers of the Company of World Traders for the ensuing year: Master, Mr David Wett: Senior Warden, Mr Peier Wildblood, Junior

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Marcus Aurelius. Jar-reaching increases in radiation

ducer, Perth, 1898.

The Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Eliza-beth Bowes-Lyon in Westminster Abbey, 1923. An accident at the Soviet nuclear

BIRTHS: Edward Gibbon, historian, London, 1737; Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, pioneer of women's rights, London, 1759; Samuel Morse, painter and inventor of the telegraphic code bearing his name, Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1791; Ulysses Grant, general, C-in-C of Union forces in American Civil War. (8th American President (869-77, Point Whymper, mountaineer and wood engraver. London. 1840: Cecil Day-Lewis, Poet Laureate 1968-72, and. as Nicholas Blake, writer of detective stories, Ballintubbert, Co Laois, Ireland, 1904; Sheila Scott, aviator, Worcester, 1927.

DEATHS: Thomas Stothard. painter. London, 1834; Raiph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet. Concord, Massachusetts, 1882: Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1915; Ed Murrow, hroadcaster, New York, 1965: Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana 1957-60, Bucharest, 1972. The London Zoological Gardens opened, Regents Park, 1828. The Abortion Act came into force

Memorial services

Sir Joshua Rowley The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lord Belstead (Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk) at a memorial service for Sir Joshua Rowley, a former Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, held yesrerday in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Lord Tollemache, the Princess Royal by the Countess of Lichfield, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester by Mrs Michael Harvey, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Major Nicholas Barne and the Duke and Duchess of Kent by Mr Andrew Palmer. Princess Alexandra and the Hon

Sir Angus Ogilvy attended.
The Provost of St Edmundsbury officiated and the Dean of York led the prayers. The Duke of Grafton, KG, and Sir Simon Towneley read the lessons. General Sir David Fraser gave an address.

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury

and Ipswich pronounced the bless-

Major J.F.E. Clarke
A service of thanksgiving for the
life and work of Major John Frank Edward Clarke, Chairman of Clarke & Smith Industries, was held vesterday in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, St Paul's Cathedral. Canon John Halliburton. Canon in Residence, officiated, assisted by the Rev Peter Haynes and the Rev John Paul, Minor Canon. Mr Colin M. Low. Senior Research Fellow, City University and Vice-Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and Mr Hugh Peltor, Direcfor of BREMA read the lessons. Mr Mark Andrews, Senior Patrner of Wilde Sapte read an extract from Ralph Emerson's essays and Sir Duncan Watson of the World Bland Union gave an

were:
Mrs Clarke (widow), Mr Paul Clarke
(son). Mrs Angela Helm (daughter).
Mr Peter Clarke (brother) and other
members of the family.
The Earl of Incheape, Lord
Chappile and Mr R A Norman
(BREMA). Lord Cullen of Ashbourne
(president. Listening Library) with
Mr Tony Hepworth: Lord Howe of
Aberavon. CH Oc. the Lord
Leutenant of Kent and Lady
Kingsdown, Sir Nicholas Scott, Sir
Roger Hurn Ichairman. Smiths
Industriesi. Sir Roger and Lady
Moster.

address. Among others present

Moste Miss Carol Bird, Miss Anna Cooper, Mr Jaskku Rakanen (Firnish Bird Organisation, Finland), Jenjor staff, past and present of Clarke & Smith Industries and many other Irlends and colleagues.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: The Marquess of Bute, 39; Mr Justice Cazalet, 61; Mr David Coleman, sports commentator, 71; the Earl of Dartmouth, 73: Mr J.C.B. Gosting, former Principal, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, b7: Professor Margaret Gowing, FRS. FBA. scientific historian, 76; Mr Stuart Higgins. Editor, The Sun. 41: Professor Sir James Holt, FBA, former Master, Fitzwilliam College. Cambridge, 75; Mr M.L.R. Isaac, former Headmaster, Latymer Upper School, Hammer-smith, 69: Mr Justice Jacob. 50: Mr William Tudor John, senior part-ner, Allen and Overy, 53: Major-General Harry Knutton, former director-general, City and Guilds of London Institute, 76: Dr Dame Anne McLaren, FRS. zoologist, 70: Professor Wilfrid Mellers, composer. 83; Sir Oliver Millar, Surveyor Emeritus of the Queen's Pictures, 74; Professor J.E. Morpurgo, Professor of American literature, 79; Professor Philip

Intelligence Corps
The Duke of Edinburgh was the

principal guest at the annual dinner of the Intelligence Corps Officers' Dinner Club held last

night at Painters' Hall, General Sir

Roger Wheeler, Colonel Com-

East Surrey Regiment
Major-General G.A. White presided at a dinner held last at

Simpson's-in-the-Strand for Offi-

cers of the East Surrey Regiment.

No I Group, RAF Marshal of the RAF Lord and

Lady Craig of Radley with other

former Air Officers Commanding

No I Group and their ladies attended a ladies guest night dinner held last night at RAF

Benson and dined out Air Vice-

Marshal and Mrs J.R. Day.

Squadron Leader S.G. Wragg presided. Air Commodore P.V.

Harris, Senior Air Staff Officer.

Air Marshal Sir David Cousins.

Air Member of Personnel and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief

Personnel and Training Com-

mand, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Air

Force Dinner Club held last night

at the RAF Chib. Air Commodore

also spoke.

RAF Dinger Class



is 69 today

Poole-Wilson, cardiologist, 54: Mr Peter Schaufuss, ballet dancer and choreographer, 48; Darne Margaret Scott, founding director, Australian Ballet School, 75; Mr Derek Waring, actor, 67: Mr

A.J. Burton, presided, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison was

London Pembrokeshire Society Professor Stuart Cole, President of

the London Pembrokeshire Soci-

ety, presided at the annual dinner

held last night at Innholders' Hall

next has the bi-centenary of the last invasion of Great Britain at Fishguard in 1797. Sir David Mansel Lewis, Lord Lieutenant of

Dyfed. Colonel George A. Jackson,

Pembroke Yeomanry, and Miss Eleanor Davies, committee chair-

Old Gravian Association Mr John Brodwell presided at the

and Cheshire branch of the Old

Grovian Association held last

night at Sacha's Hotel, Manchester

Mr Roger Taylor chairman, and Mr David Humphreys, Head-master of Woodhouse Grove School, also spoke.

Mr Andy McNae of the British Mountaineering Council was the guest of honour at the annual

among the guests.

Dinners

man, also spoke.

Himalayan Club

Service dinners

Morris West, novelist. SI; Mr Willie Wood, bowler, 59 TOMORROW:

Professor J.P. Barron, Master, St. Peter's College, Oxford, 63; Air Marshal Sir Charles Broughton. 86; Miss Darcey Bussell, ballerina. 28; Mr Donald Buttress. Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, 65: Sir Ross Chesterman, former Warden, Goldsmiths' College. 88: the Most Rev R.H.A. Earnes, Archbishup of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, 60; Mr Michael Fish, meteorologist, 53; Sir Peter Imbert, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. 64: the Right Rev E.W. Kemp, Bishop of Chichester, 82: Sir Harry Melville, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 89: Mr Igor Oistrakh, violinist, 60: Mr Jeff Probyn, rugby player, 41: Mr Richard Ralph. diplomat. 51: Mr Alan Reynolds, painter, 71; the Hon Nicholas Serota, director, Tate Gallery, 51; Lord Taylor of Gryle, 85: Sir John

Society of Chemical Industry Mr Raymond Holland. Chairman **World Organisation of Systems**

Service luncheon

Fifth Indian Division Major-General Patrick Stone was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Fifth Indian Division held yesterday at the Great Western Royal Hotel. Paddington, Lieutenani-Colonel A.P. Harrington pre-

Appointment

reunion dinner of the Himalayan Club held last night at the Oriental Mr John Guilford Gordon Ungley to be a Queen's Bench Master of the Supreme Court. Queen's Bench Division. Club. Mr Robert Pettigrew pre-

Luncheons

of the international govering coun-cil of the Society of Chemical Industry, was the host at a luncheon held vesterday at their headquarters at Belgrave Square after honorary memberships were conferred on Lord Dainton, FRS, and Lord Lewis of Newnham, FRS, Citations were delivered by Sir Geoffrey Allen, FRS, and Sir David Harrison.

and Cybernetics
The Norbert Wiener Memorial
Gold Medal was presented to
Professor B.H. Rudall by the
Director-General. Professor R. Valles, at a luncheon held at the Reform Club on April Ib.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain A.G.C. Fair

and Miss C.E. Collis

The engagement is announced between Captain Angus Fair. The

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, son

of Mr Nicholas Fair, of Llanfihangel-

ar-arth. Carmarthenshire, and Mrs Isla Fair, of Chinnor. Oxford-

shire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr Nigel Collis, of Leigh Sinton,

Worcestershire, and Mrs John

The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of

Mr and Mrs Anthony Taylor, of

Hill Head, Hampshire, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wheeler, of

The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Ian Whittell, of Horbury.

Wakefield, Yorkshire, and Jane Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Lumbard, of

Potter, of Dale, Pembrokeshire,

Mr M. Taylor and Miss C. Wheeler

Tuckenhay, Devon.

Marriages

The Right Hon Lord Norton and Miss F.E.P. Rothwell

The marriage took place in London on Wednesday, April 23, of James Nigel Arden Lord Norton and

and Miss J.A. Lumbard

Mr A. Whittell

Mr M.R. Duncan and Miss C. Tan Bernard and Diana Duncan, of Eastbourne, East Sussex,

announce the engagement of their son. Mark, to Camellia, daughter of Sebastian and Elizabeth Tan, of Dr D.W. Goss and Miss H.L. McKenzie

The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr W. Goss and the late Mrs Goss, of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, and Helen, eldest daughter of Mrs Mary McKenzie, of Bristol. Mr M.B.J. Hutchins

and Miss J.R. Harris The engagement is announced between Marthew, son of Mr and Mrs James Hutchins, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ray Harris, of Ashtead, Surrey.

Mr M.D. Lawrence and Miss H.L. Holmes The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald Lawrence, of Reigate, Surrey, and Honor, youngest daughter of the late Mr Anthony Holmes and of Mrs Holmes, of Perworth, West Sussex.

Dr J.A. Stones and Miss R.E. Rees The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Stones, of Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, and Rebecca. daughter of Mr and Mrs Iorwerth Rees, of Colwyn Bay, North Wales, formerly of Llandaff, Cardiff.

Mr J. Swanston and Miss A.J. Cox The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Miles Swanston, of Cove. Berwickshire, and Alexandra Jane, daugh-ter of Mr and Mrs Charles Cox, of Duddington. Northamptonshire.

University news

The John Pearce Memorial Prizes in Surgery for 1997 have been awarded to the following: James Alexander Haeney. Brasenose College: Sadia Nascem Khan, St Edmund Hall; Marisa Danièle Le Masurier, Green College: Mohammad Bagher Malaki Varnamkhasti, Queen's College: Marthew Bernamin Keeble Shaw, Green College.

Miss Frances Elizabeth Prioleau Rothwell. A reception was held at Mosimanns and the honeymoon is being spent in Venice. Mr C. Delves

and Mrs M. Chapman
The marriage has taken place in
Richmond upon Thames of Mr
Claude Delves, FRICS, and Mrs
Margot Chapman, nee Graville,

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TRUSTEE ACTS

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Cambridge Queens' College

To an Official Fellowship and College Lectureship in History from October 1: Richard Andrew William Rex.

Hughes Hall Elected into Fellowships (Class A): John Holly Barker, Robin Benville Boast, Pamela Benham Davis, Paul William Leopold Siklos, Sylvana Palma Tomaselli, Marc Weller.

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday after Easter FT ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: I HC: 10.15 S Euch, Darke in E, O Lord Increase Roosemont, The Provost, 6.30 Discrean Choral

E. ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 M, Stanford in B flat. Cantate Domino (Piron)t, Rev H Moore 3.15 Cheral E, Wood to C minor. O be joyful in the Lord (Britten). joyful in the Lord (Britten).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Regina caeli (Alchinger): 11 S Euch, Darke in E, Almighty Cod who by Thy Son (Gibbons): 3.30 Choral E. Stanford in C. The Lord is my shepherd (Ruiter).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 M: 9.15 HC: (1 Choral Euch, Misss Brevis (Palearina), Asicula Destera Domini, O sacrum convivium (Talliti: 4 Choral E. Stanford in A, Greater Love hath no man (Ireland).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M. Hear my words ye people (Parry), Canon Hall: 10.30 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd). PARECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch: 11 Holy Euch, Wood in the Jonian Mode, The Dean;) 30 E. Wesley in E. I will sing unto the Lord (Pring). CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M: 9.30 S Euch: 11 S Euch, MIssa Brevis (Ives), Ave verum corpus (Eigar). The Archdeacon: 3.15 E & Installation of SIA Preachers, Stanford in A. Camique de Jean Racine (Faure): 6.30 Compline, Mr E Braman.

Cantique de Jean Nacche (Pairei; 8.30 compline, Mr R Braman.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in 8, Love bade me welcome (Vaughan Williams), The Dean; 3 E. Stanford in 8 flat. Biessed be the God and Father (Wesley).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, Canun B Thompson; 9.30 Euch & Parade, Rev i Moody; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in F, O naste and see (Vaughan Williams), Canon D Knight; 6 Choral E Dyson in D. Light out of derkness (Bigar), Canon J Bown.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydg), The Call (Vaughan Williams), The Archdeacon; 11.30 Choral M. Te Deum 8 Jubilate (Stanford in 8 flat), Te es Petrus (Durufle), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E. Aston in F, My beloved spake (Haoley); 6.30 Healing & Laying on of Hands, Canon T Dennis.

Hands, Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M, Boyce in C, Come my way (Vaughan Williams). The Bursulis Prebendary: 13 8 Euch. Sumsion in F, Victimae Paschali (Byrd), Rev G Hail: 3 J. E. Balrstow in D. Rise heart (Vaughan Williams). Balrstow in D. Rise hear (Vaughan Williams).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL. Oxford: 8 HC;
10 M & Sermon. Te Deum (Surnston in C).

Canon Peirce: 11.15 S Euch, Missa Pater Noster
[Palestrinal. Up up my heart with gladness
(Bachl. Caron O'Donovan: 6 E. Humfrey in F
minor. My beloved spake (Purcell).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP. 8

Communion: 10.30 Euch. Darke in E. If you
love me (Tallist, O for a closer walk (Stanford).

Very Rev J Petty; 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish
Lutherans: 5 E. O for a closer walk (Stanford).

Brewer in D. Greater love Ilreland): 7.15 City
Celebrusion. DURHAM CATHEDRAL: # HC. The Dean: 10 M. Christo resurgenti (Couperin). Canon S Pedley: 11.15 HC. Missa brevis (Britten). Canon D Brown; 2 Northumbria Area Baden-Powell

Scouis St. George's Day Farade; 3.30 E. Sumsion in G. Evening Hymn (Purceil).

ELY CATMEDRAL: 8.15 HC. Rev J McFarlane: 10.30 S Euch & Holy Baptism, Messe Solenneile (Langlais), Set me as a seal (Farreil). Rev B Clover; 2 Ely District Scour Council (Farreil). Rev B Clover; 2 Ely District Scour Council S George's Tide Service, Rev J McFarlane; 3.45 E. Child in E minor. Ecce to puichra es (Philips).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 3.00 M: 10 S Euch & Confirmation. O Holy Spirit Lord of strace (Tyel, Worth Service (Tanner, Come Holy Ghost (Aftwood). The Bishop of Plymouth; 3 E. Ireland in F. The strife is o'er (Shephard); 6.30 E. Sing Choirs of heaven (Shephard); Canon D Ison.

GLOUCESTER CATNEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC: 10.15 Euch, Schubert in G. Ri Rev B Abu d-wasti 1 E. Dyson in D, Harwood in A liat. Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Dr 1 Schofield: (1.15 M. Jubilate in F. fireland). Christ being mised from the deed (Moore). Dr 8 Thomson: 6.30 E. Smart in B flat. O hearken thou (Eiger). Rev Prof D Marrin.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Rheinberger in E. O magnum mysterium (Foulenc). The Archdescon: 11.30 M, Jackson in G. My beloved spake (Tomkins): 3.30 E. E. Cathedral Choir.

EFFESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 10.30 Buch, Mozart in D (8.194). Halleiulah. Amen

Cathedral Choir.

ENERGY CATHEDRAL & HC. 10 M: 10.10

Euch, Mozari in D (K194), Hallettish, Amen
(Handel), The Provost: 4 Choral E. Ireland in C.
O sine joyruly (Battern), Canon G Willett.

LICHPIELD CATHEDRAL: 5 HC; 10.10 If Euch,
Missa Barvis in D (Mozari), Jubliare in C Boyces,
Ave verum corpus (Mozari), Preb A Williams;
3.30 E. in Thanksgiving for Christian Aid.
Howells in G, Blessed be the God and Father
(Wesley).

(Wesley).

Lincoln Cathedral: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Schubert in G. The Precentor: 11.15 M. Short Service (Globons). Christ rising again (Wesleys): 3 Arthrilis Care, Stanford in A. The spirit of the Lord (Elgar), The Bishop of Grantham.

LIANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany: 8 Holy Euch, The Dean; 9 Parish Euch, The Dean; 18 Euch, Kyrie (Ireland). Stanford in C & F. Harc dies quam fecil Dominus (Byrd). The Canoni: 12.15 Holy Euch; 3.30 Choral E. Sumsion in D. Blessed be the God and Pather Wesley): 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Rev M Tomilianon.

Tomiliasun.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP, # HC: 9.30
Royal Norfolk Regiment: 10.30 5 Euch, Little
Organ Mass (Häydri), Christus facus es
Bruckned, Canon M Perham 3.30 E &
Installation of Honorary Canons, Blair in B
minor, Allelula Who is this who comes in
Iriumph (Archerl, The Dean; 6.30 Night Prayer,
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 9.30
M, Ireland in F: 10.30 Euch, Darke in F. Mr K
Mackay: 3 St George's Day, Rev J Thackray; 5.30
E.

E. PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Parish C. Mass of St Thomas (Thorne), Locus isie Bruckner). The Provost: 11 S Euch. Rejoice in the Lord Janon), Mass for Jourvoices (Byrd), O Clap your hands [Gibbons], Canon A Wikinson; 6.30 E. First Service (Weelkes), Rejoice in the Lord [Purcell], Canon C Bradley.

(Falcsuma), Rev D Palon-willisms.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL'S H.C: 9.45 M. Te
Deum/Jubilete (Ireland in F., Death and
darkness ger you packing (Ferguson): 10.30 S
Euch, Rent Service (Ferguson), 11 ye love me
(Talila), Ven N Warren: 3.15 St George's Day
Parade.

Panade.

HEFFIELD CATHEDRAL B HC. 10 MF 10.30 S Euch. The Provost 4.30 Confirmation group: 6.30 Festal E & Sermon, Canon T Page.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Litary: 8 HC: 9.30 Festal E of Sermon, Canon T Page.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Litary: 8 HC: 9.30 Fasts Communion. The Chancelon; 11 S Euch. Darke in E. Tu es Petrus (Falestrina). The Provost 3,15 E, Stanford in C. Evening Hymn Garding). iGardined.
THURO CATHEDRAL: S HC: 9 M: 10 S Euch, if
ye love me (Tallis), Missa Brevis (Palestrina),
Canon A Phillips: 6 E. Collegium Regale
(Howells), Ye choirs of new Jerusalem
(Shephard), The Dean.

(Shephard). The Dean.

WARENELD CATHEDMALL I HC. The Provost:

9.15 Parish Communion. Canon G NaimBriggs: 11 Solemn Euch. Vouchsafe O Lord
(Purcell). Gloria in excelsis (Weelkes). The
Provost: 2.30 Scours Service. Canon G NaimBriggs: 6.30 E. New College Service (Howells).

Biessed be the God (Wesley), Canon D Baxter.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch.

Collegium Regale (Howells). 0 sacrum
convivium (Messiaen). Rev P Walker: 11.30 M.

Britten in C. Jubilate Deo (Lassus): 3 E. The
Second Service (Leighton). My beloved spaice
(Hadley), Rev G Faran: 3 Mid Somersel District
Clubs & Ecours.

Clubs & Icons.

WESTMINSTER ABBET: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten In C, Since by man came death (Handeh. Br. Samuel; 17.15 Euch. Missa bravis (Berkeley). Rejoice in the Lord (anon). Locus ishe (Bruckner). Rev B Fenton: 3 E, Watson in E. Put thou they trust (Bliss). Canon A Harvey: 5.45 Recital; 6.30 Evening. The Dean.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 M, Jubilate (Waiton), My beloved spake (Hadley), The Dean; 11.30 Euch. Missa 'Be' amfurli altera' (lassus). Praelodium in F major (Lubeck); 3.30 E, St. John's Service (Howells). Behold 0 god our defender (Howells). Rev C Stewart.

Stewari.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch, Missa brevis | Berkeley). Ave Verum (Elgar). Rev R Melcalie: 11.30 M. Noble in B munor: 4 E. Wood in 8 flat no. 2: Then shall be brought to pass islandel). Rev P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clayd: 8 HC: 11 Choral M. O for a closer walk (Slanford), Rev R Griffiths; 3.30 EP. Griffiths; 3.30 EP.

8T GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8,10.6
LM; 11.30 Solemn M. Mgr L While.

ST GRES' CATHEDRAL Edinburgh: 8
Morning HC. The Minister: 10 Morning HC,
The Minister: Mass in C (Mozart: 11.30
Morning, Rejoke in the Lamb (Britten). The
Minister: 6 St Glies at \$L. Muscians: 8 Evening
HC. Rev K Watson.

8T MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch: 10.30 Euch,
Missa Aedes Christi (Maihias), Magnificat
(Swayne). The Provost: 3.30 Choral E. Walmisey
in D minor, Let all mortal flesh keep silence
(Balrstow).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberthorn 11 HC, Rev D Molyneaux; 6 Rev R Frazer.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London SW7: Easter, i 1.45pm Saturday, Midnight Service. ALI SAINTS. Margarei Sireet, WI: 8, 6,15 LM: 10,20 MP. II HM, Missa Pestiva (Pesters), Rev P Johnstone: 6 E&B. Bairstow in D. Rev I Davies. ALL SOULS, Langham Place, WI: II Communion Service, Rev Dr J Stott, 6.50 Rev R THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa simile est regnum (Vigoria), Spring bursts today (Shaw), Gaude flore Virginali (Carver). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children: 11 M. How beauteous are the feet IStanford), Rev Dr P Eby; 12.15 HC; 6 E. Rev Dr CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon EL, WI: 11 Sunday School. CRUWN COURT CHURCH OF POSTLAND, Covert Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev J McMahon: 6.30 Rev 5 Hood. FARM STREET. WI: 8. 930, 1230, 4.15, 6.15 LM: 11 HM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON. Brompton Road, SW7:9 ASB HC. Rev 5 Millar, 11 Morning, Rev 5 Downham: 5.7 Informal, Rev N Gumbel. THE ORATORY. Brompton Road, 5W7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass. Missa brevis (Palestrina), Dizeruni discipuli (Anerio) 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass: 3.30 V & B, AW EVUM COPUS (Gounod). ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverus Gdas. W8: Feast of the Apparition of the Holy Cross. WESLEYS CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9,45 HC; I I Morning, Rev Dr R Frost. ST AUGUSTINES CHURCH, South Kensington: Kyrie (Tavemer) (Western Wynde Mass), Ave Verum (Mozari), F BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, C1: 9 HC: I Choral Euch, Misso Gaudeamus ictorial, The Rector, 6,30 E. Jackson in G. Lieve r ergeb ich mich (Contellus), Regina caell iorales). The Rector,

(Morales). The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S. Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch. Jubilate (Waltan). Harwood in A flat, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), While Christ Lay dead (Vann). Canon J Oates: 6.30 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Proclaim his triumph (Grier). Where does the unered music go? (Walton). Canon J Oates. ST CLEMENT DANES: I I Aircrew Association Annual Service, Te Deum, Collegium Regale (Howells). Glorious and powerful God (Stanford), Rev V Cooper.

ET COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pomistreet, SWI 11 HC, Rev F Macdonald; 3 HC, Rev W Cairns: 6,30 Rev C MacLeod.

Miss Pontificalis (Perosi), O Sanctissima ET GEORGES, Hilliover Squere, WI: £30 IIC. 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Crossley-Holland), Closing service of London Handel Ferrival. The Ractor. ST JAMES'S, Piceadity: 8.30 HC; IT'S Euch, Rev D Ricres; 5.45 EF. ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Pamily Sonata No. 1 (Mendelssohn), Rev D Richards; 8.30 HC, Rev D Richards. TILINES Chabbes, SWATE HCL 10.30 MP & HC. Welcome awar and sacred feast (Pin2), Rev C Revill-Device: 6.30 E. Landbus in sanctis (Syrd), Rev C Kevill-Device. ST MARGARETS, Westminster, SWI: 11 5
Euch, Euge Bone (1794, Aileitnis I heard a voice
(Westlerg) Box Co. B. Bondaria Weekes), No P F Brosshaw.

T MARTINH-H-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC 9.45
EUCh. Rev C Herbert: 11.30 Visitors. Rev C
Herbert: 2.45 Chinese, Rev D Foo: 5 Choral E:
6.30 Evening. The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8:
8,12.30 HC: 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev T Thornton:
11,15 Choral M. Rev T Thornton: 6.30 E, Mr N
Palo. Tain.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, WI: 8
HC: 11 Choral Euch, Mass Jongen, Tu as
Petrus (Durufle), The Rector.

ST MICHAELS, Comhill, EC3: Choral Euch,
Missa Quarti Ioni (Victoria), O nata Iux (Tailis),
Ven G Reid. ven G Reid.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SWI: 8.15 HC: 10
Family Euch: 11 S Euch, Mass Cantate
(Sheppard), I know that my redeemer liveth
(Handel), Fr W Keyes.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St. SW3: 8 HC; 11
M, Jubitate (Purcell in D), Gloria in excelsia Deo
(Weelkes), Preb M Gowan: 6.30 E. CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC. Rev P Abram: 1 M & Sermon, Te Deum (Britten in C., If ye be risen again with Christ (Gibbons), Rev P Abram. QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Te Deum (Britten in E), My heloved spake (Hadley), The Chaplain: 12.30 HC. GRAYS INN CHAPEL & South Sq. WCI: 11.15 S Euch.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street 8.30 HC;
11.15 HC, Missa Brevis (Waltoni, Rise hear the Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams). The Master,
GUARDS CHAPEL Wellington Barracks, SW):
11 M, Bow thine eyes (Arensky). My soul there is a country (Party). Band of the Irish Guards, Rev L Bryan: 12 HC. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL. Greenwich, SEIO: II S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd), Behold how good and Joyfull (Clarke Whittield).

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| We are rather to maintain the truth in a spirit of love; so shall we fully grow up into Christ. He is the Head. Ephe- sians 4: 15 |
| |
| BIRTHS |
| |
| peard - On April 18th 1997, to Lecture (not Morden) and David, a son, Maximilian Anthony. |
| CAVE - On April 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Emily and Richard, a daughter, Olivia Jane. |
| DAWIES - On 17th April 1997 in the Falklands, to Sarah (née Griffiths) and Richard, s son, John Richard Falkland. |
| LOFTUS - On 18th April, to Sarah (née Bird) and Michael, a son, Edward Huley, a bother for June |
| McBRIDE - On April 24th 1997, to Lydin and David, a daughter, Lauren Emily. |
| POMEROV - On 18th April, to Carolina (née Grindle) and Henry, a son, Hugh William, a hruther for Tatalak. |
| RADCINES TRANSC. On 21st March, 1997, in Princeton, New Jersey, USA to Amabelio and Richard, a son, Winslow, a brother for Miles. |
| salwey - On 18th April 1997, to falls (née Randall) and Roger, a drughter, Saskia. |

ANNIVERSARIES

SELBY - On April 24th 1997 (Leonosa's bisthday) at the Rosis, to Neville and Mary, a daughter, Matilda Phoebe Hope, a sister for Camiline, Finess, Leonora, Anastasia and Henrietta.

SLATER - On 23rd April, to Lucy (née Foot) and Simon, a daughter, Emma, a sister for Camilla, Matthew and Rovy. Thanks to all at RSCH.

WALCHOPE - On 14th April 1997 in Singapore, to Junior (non Hudson) and Francis, a daughter, Lydis Ame.

to Mary 27th April 1957.

ABRAMSKY - Miriam (née Nirenstein), deeply loved wife of Chimen, mother of jack and Jenny and grandmother of Sasha, Kotya, Rob, Tanya and Maia, died peacefully on 25th April after a long filhess. Funeral on Sunday 27th April after 1230 was Invish April at 12:30 pm at Jewish Reform Cemetery, Hoop Lane, London NW11. No

23rd April aged 91, peacefully at 8t Georges Mussing Bress, London SWI. Devecad wife of the block Derend wite of the believed Birdwood and beloved mother of Roger, Georgie and Gordon, grandmother of Victoria, Alex, Will, Laura and Eatle, and great-grandmother of Rosie. Funeral at St Michaels Horwood on Tuesday 29th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Devon

BOLS - Anne (née Meade).
Suddenly on St George's Day.
Most beloved wife and
bother Present Startham
Crematorium at 2 pm
followed by a Thanksgiving
at St Peter Mancroft,
Norwich at 3 pm. No flowers,
Donations to Save the
Children Fund c/o Peter
Taylor, Fundand Directors, 25
Unithank Read, Norwich.

BURTON - Geoffrey, much loved by Joy, Rupert and Prue, very peacefully on April 24th 1997 at Butland Memorial Hospital, Oakham, surrounded by loving care. Frivate cremation. Thanksgiving Service at State the Greater Partin Church, London Road, Leicester, on Theodry April 29th at 1 pm. No flowers plans. Business in desired word. Latiend Remorial Hospital clo AC. Immes & Dear Homes Policy Committee Control Programme Discharge 20 Stephens Road, Leicester, tek (0116) 2542900.

CAMPLIN - Robert (Bob), Pencafully on 24th April. Seloved husband of Peggy and devoted father of John and Julia. He will be saily missed by all who knew him. Funeral Service at Slough Crematorium on Thursday 1st May at 3 pm. Flowers or donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Pund. of W. Genstin, (0171) 935-4868. Funeral Director. F. Smith & Son, 12 Richmond Road, Staines, TW18 2AB, (01784) 482276.

Cantwright died peacefully on April 24th Husband of Elsie, tather of Roger, Sarah and Eachel, he retired as Bishop of Southwapton after a lifelong ministry in Boston, Bristol and Winchester. There will be a private fuzeral, and later a Translaging Service will be held at Winchester Catastani for all who wish to attend on Friday 6th June at 2.30 pm.

CLAPSES - On April 9th, 1997, Vivianna (ase Woolard Harper), died after a long fifness in Denver, Colorado, USA. Preceded by her parents Mr & Mrs Charence Walter Woolard. Only sister of six brothers currently residing in England. For details please contact Mrs J Foco 001 203 355 3462.

60 years, on Wednesday
Apell 23rd 1997, suddenly at
Derriford Hospital,
Plymouth A beloved
husband, father and
grandpa. Punemal Service at
Ugborough Parish Church,
South Devon on Monday
28th April at 2.30 pm
followed by interment.
Enquiries to Penring Punemal
Services tel: (01752)
892577. GIBSON - Kathrine (née Godfrey) died 23rd April after a tragically short illness. Much loved mother, grandmother and friend. Funeral on Monday 28th April at 230 pm, 5t Paincis of Assisi Church, Pottery Lime, Will. Flowers before noon on Monday to J.E. Kenyon, 63 Westbourne Gove. London W2.

MORRIS - On 24th April 1997
Edward Allam, C.M.G., O.B.R., husband of Phyllis, father of Romile, garnetischer of Junie and Estum. Femeral Service at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Twickenham, on Friday 2nd May at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, Deschiese if Junies. Enquiries to F.W. Paine, Twickenham, (0181) 892-1784.

April in Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield, dearly loved wife of Alwa, mother of Susie, Eate, Peter and Mark and grandmother of their eight children. At her request her body was made available to the hospital to aid their research into lymphoma and breast cancer. Funeral at Camphoma 230 pm Tuosday 29th April 2.30 par Tuesday 29th April 1997. No flowers piesse but donations to Weston Park Bespiral and Fred will be welcomed. Funeral Directors: S. Hattersley & Sons Led. Funeral Directors. 211 Chatsworth Eoad, Chesterfield (01246) 232820.

MACPHIE - Peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infilmery on Friday April 25th 1997, Stewart aged 67 years, Genbervie House. Beloved husband of fill, dear father of Hoas and Abstair and much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at West Mearns Parish Church, Glenbervie on Toesday April 29th at 1.30 pm, interment the state of the church and to which all friends and to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

MScTech, CEng, AMCT, FLEE. - Spping, Essex, aged 82 on 21st April, wistows of his beloved Mary (nee Messal Despression of Heart of Honica), gandchildren Tiffany and Gregory of Markham, Canada and Mara Canol Typesma of Luton Feature Service at 11.30 am Tuesday April 29th at Faradon Wood Crematorium, Harlow. Enquiries D.C. Foulton & Sons, (01992) 572609. Family flowers only, but donations if desired may be made to British Heart PREVEZER - Professor Sidney peacefully on 24th April 1977 a home surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Baid, loving father of theres. Seem, Andrew and Matthew. Will be greatly missed by his bother Henry, Sophie, Marina, David and Ben and his grandchildren and all his friends.

Oak Cottage, The Riddox, Ruxwood, Leondoster, HB6 9JS, suddenly on 21st April. Cremation at Hereford Commission Backer, 30th April at 12 noon. Donations to Macmillan YALEUT-OPENING ON April 23rd 1997 at his home in Berkhamsted Heelyn Tallou-Fonsonby eged 31 years. Husband of Hilbry, Funcail Service will take place at \$t her? Church, Northchurch and the Jerusalem & Marticharch, Northchurch and the Jerusalem & Middle East Church Association c/o J. Workey (Pumeni Directure) Ltd., 344 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1HT, bel: (01442) 870326. WADDINGTON - Sylvin Ruth
Evering (nes Skinschaf) at
April 23rd, aged 89, wife of
Skinsad Weddington, loved
and loving auni, great-auni
and great-great-auni
raneral St Faul's
Knightsbridge, (Wilton
Flace) at 11 am Wednesday
and Stdr. Family flowers
only. Donations, if desired
to St Nicholas' Convent, 67
Holland Park, London Will. Most beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service on Wednesday 30th April 20 to Church of the Holy Name, Claygate. Family flowers caly. Densions to CATOD, Romero Glose, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9TT.

IN MEMORIAM -BARTHORPE - To Peggy Barthorpe who died April 27th 1991 "those who knew will never forget you" A McDAUALL - John C. 1912 1977, Resembled today his hirthday and always.

SAMUEL - In memory of Dr. H.S. Samuel (Sam) especially on his birthday, 27th April Always with love, Lee. BIRTHDAYS birthday, Low of love from Anne, Propose, Helen, Jacqueline and all at 26.34

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Peter Earle, reporter, died on April 6 aged 71. He was born on November 4, 1925.

s an investigative reporter. Peter Earle was without peer. Over a 25-year A period his scoops for the News of the World embraced gangland murders, organised crime, high-class vice rings, Cold War intrigues, espionage and infidelities of politicians.

Earle's inquiry into a call-girl network organised by society osteopath Stephen Ward snowballed into the Profumo affair, the biggest scandal of the 1960s. It was the first of many front-page stories he obtained for the News of the World which he joined when the paper absorbed the Empire News.
Stafford Somerfield, then Editor

of the News of the World, was at first bemused by Earle's Dickensian mannerisms. But he quickly realised he had taken on board someone special. When exasperated executives complained that Earle had not been seen in the office for days he would beam. "He must be on something big. He'll surface in his own time," he would reply. And Earle justified his confidence with a string of exclusives. For

months a Daily Express reporter was assigned to spend evenings in the Tipperary bar in Fleet Street. one of Earle's haunts, to eavesdrop on his conversations.

THE LIMES STITISTIAN AND THE HULL

He had an amazing network of contacts whose identities he assiduously guarded. A colleague who occupied an adjacent desk in the newsroom of the News of the World in Bouverie Street often took his calls. "It's Barney the Snake," a voice would rasp. "Tell him to be in the usual place," Or it could be Black Rod, the Fiery Horseman, Marley's Ghost, the Old Pretender or the Brigadier, all anxious to confide in Earle because they trusted him.

Barney the Snake, in fact, was a wealthy property developer who had once been an enforcer for Jack "Spot" Comyn, a London gang-leader in the 1950s. The Fiery Rovers and Black Rod worked in the Lord Chancellor's Office. Senior Scotland Yard detectives, barristers, men from MI5 and MI6 and a host of Soho denizens were also among his contacts. It was an MI5 man who told Earle that Georgi Markov, a Bulgarian dissident found dead near Aldwych Tube station, did not die from a heart attack but had been murdered by an East German political assassin who used a poison tipped

When he heard from an underworld contact that a notorious gang of south London villains had resorted to torturing people they did not care for. Earle began a one-man crusade. Because the gang had friends at Scotland Yard who tipped them off about police inqui-ries, an outsider Gerald McArthur. an assistant Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, was secretly called in by the Home Office to

investigate. He had weekly meetings with Earle who updated him on the Richardson gang's activities. The inquiry ended in the sensational torture trial at the Old Bailey when evidence of electric shock torture and the extraction of teeth and toenails by a homicidal lunatic shocked Britain.

Earle was the first reporter to recognise the menace of the Kray twins who were showing an interest in the mushrooming garning scene in London. The profits were sufficient to interest the New York mafia who sent a team of lawyers to check and, if reports were favourable, arrange dealings with the Krays, Film tough guy, George

Raft, heavily in debt to the mob. was sent from New York as celebrity host at one club. The profits from unrestricted gaming were enormous but when shooters and champagne corks started popping simultaneously something had to be done.

PETER EARLE

A man from the Home Office contacted Earle. 'The Home Secretary reckons you know more about this business than anyone. What's your advice?" After giving a com-prehensive rundown of the gambling scene, Earle said: Tell the Home Secretary he can start by making Mr Raft a prohibited immigrant," A few weeks later, Raft, who usually played a gangster in his Warner Brother days, was deported from Britain.

Earle, a kindly, courteous and humorous man, made daily excur-sions into shady Soho clubs, seedy pubs, expensive West End bars and nightclubs. He was once tailed by a detective. Earle spotted him in a third pub and led him all over London by taxi. In the 13th pub he ordered his usual large Scotch and instructed the barman to send one to the chap in the corner with the message: "I'm heading for the Shakespeare and I'll be in the Wig and Pen by 5.30,"

The tail joined Earle at the bar and sighed: Keeping up with you has been one of the toughest assignments I've had. The yard will

never pay my drinks bill."
"My dear fellow, if you need confirmation I'll be happy to supply t," Earle, a 60-cigarette and a bottle of Scotch a day man, assured him. In keeping with his eccentric character. Peter Earle had the unusual distinction during the Second World War of serving in both the RAF and then the Army

Intelligence Corps in India. The Wig and Pen, one of Earle's favourite watering holes, used to be festooned with cartoons of Fleet Street eccentrics and characters. A drawing of Earle was on the wall alongside the likes of crime novelist Edgar Wallace and press baron Lord Northcliffe.

He was once dispatched to interview a titled lady about her troubled matrimonial situation. But how do I know you are from the News of the World," she asked him suspiciously. Earle spread his arms in despair. "Madam," he retorted testily, "I've already admitted it."

Peter Earle, who retired to Dorset, leaves a widow, Hazel, a son and three daughters.



JEAN LOUIS

Jean Louis, costume designer, died in Palm Springs, California, on April 20 aged 89. He was born in Paris on October 5, 1907.

HOLLYWOOD fashion in the 1940s and 1950s was dominated by a handful of designers, among them the tiny, energetic Edith Head at Paramount and the courtly Parisian Jean Louis at Columbia. Despite spending most of his life on the West Coast of America, Louis always managed to sound as though he had just stepped off the plane from France.

Numérous showstopping gowns flowed from his atelier at Columbia, where he was chief designer for twenty years. Two passed into showbusiness history. The first was worn by Rita Hayworth in Gilda (1946), as she shimmled her way through the nightclub number Put the Blame on Mame. It was a black satin strapless gown with matching gloves. and tossed to the howling audience. The dress started a fashion trend which has still not gone out of style.

The other was the sparkling dress which Marilyn Monroe wore for her breathless rendition of Happy Birthday to President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden in 1962. This had taken months to prepare and required Monroe to undergo several fittings. There were no zips -- on the evening she had to be sewn into it, giving new meaning to the term figure-hugging and it certainly made an arresting spectacle for those watching. Hundreds of strategically placed brilliants shimmered over the flesh-coloured cloth. Under the spotlight Monroe seemed to be clothed

in nothing but reflected light. Jean Louis Berthault trained under the designer Agnes Drecoll in Paris. He took a holiday in New York in 1935, casually submitted his sketches to the Hattie Carnegie design firm and was asked to stay. The suit which he

LTLI, RICHARD PRITER of 305 Shrwood Court, Opper Bichmental Sond, Lamidon SWIS off (for-ments of 6 Sperwall House, Lyt-tha (grove, Partney, London SWIS-ZEU) died on 2 May 1996 partic-ulum to LAYOUR DE WOLFS Solidations of 31 SUUTHAMPTION ROW LEARNING WITH SHI (BACK TOWN 1 LONGON WITH SHI (BACK)

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Rita Hayworth in Gilda (1946) shimmies her way through the nightclub number Put the Blame on Mame

designed for them in 1937 consisting of a fitted buttoned jacket with narrow waist and long narrow skirt — was worn by all the fashionable American women that year: the Duchess of Windsor and Mrs Harry Cohn among them. The latter's husband was the founder of Columbia and, at

her urging, Jean Louis was brought to Hollywood in 1944 and installed as chief designer for the studio.

For several years, he was the only dress designer to receive a full film credit: "Gowns by Jean Louis". He was nominated 14 times for an Oscar, for work on, among

others, Born Yesterday, From Here to Eternity, A Star is Born, Pai Joey, Bell Book and Candle and Thoroughly Modern Millie. He finally won it for dressing Judy Holliday in The Solid Gold Cadillac (1956).

The other platform for his work during the 1950s was The Loretta Young Show, which ran on NBC. Loretts Young, who was his wife Maggy's best friend (and later his second wifel, chose Louis as her designer for 52 episodes: "I learnt never, ever to tell him what I wanted, what colour, what shape. I learnt to tell him only how I wanted to feel and what time of day the scene was. It always worked." Indeed, it worked so well that many women who watched the show did so only to find out what Loretta Young would be wearing next.

With the waning of the studio system in the early 1960s, Jean Louis left Columbia, set up a salon in Beverly Hills and freelanced. Actresses continued to insist in their contracts that he would be their designer on a film, not least because he was expert at disguising flaws in a woman's figure. They also appreciated the dramatic touches of a Jean Louis original, the long trains. for example, which were then used by most contemporary designers only on wedding gowns.

Louis continued to work with his old friend Mariene Dietrich. For her latterday career as a Las Vegas chanteuse, he designed those disturbingly transparent gowns which managed to make her look as if she was wearing

nothing but jewels and fur. in 1980 Nancy Reagan gave him Washington's seal of approval when she wore his black silk iacquard dress on the night her husband was elected President: The New York Times called it "the

landslide look". Jean Louis retired in 1988. His first wife predeceased him in 1987 and in 1993 he married his friend Loretta Young, who survives him. There were no

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SIR THOMAS BAZLEY, Bt

Sir Thomas Bazley. Bt, country landowner, died on April 14 aged 89. He was born on October 5. 1907.

THOMAS BAZLEY, according to friends, wrote his own epitaph. He had, he would frequently say, "loved every minute of every day of every year" — and if that was not technically true, he certainly spent much of his time trying to make it so. He was one of the last of his kind. Inheriting a Cotswold estate embracing 4,000 acres and three whole villages, he was free to indulge his every interest and whim of which there were many.

They included alternative medicine and organic farming, architecture, conservation, classical music, current affairs and politics. He so impressed Harold Macmillan when they met that the Prime Minister offered to find him a safe seat. He was nonplussed when Bazley replied that not only did he not have the time. but he was a deeply committed

A vegetarian who fortified his diet with vitamin pills, he helped to found the highly successful Marigold Health Foods, of which he remained a director until he died. He recently completed a book on alternative medicine.

But perhaps his greatest contribution to posterity was the conservation of Gloucestershire estate. Not only did he have to approve all building work, insisting on the use of local stone, but he sought to preserve its lifestyle without restraining too

much the local economy. He encouraged modern architecture where appropriate. fiercely attacking the apostles of neo-Georgianism. He had

himself, but confessed that the maths involved would have been too much for him. As it was he contented himself with his own schemes. He had one house built in a wood, aptly named The Folly, and designed his own solar-heated swimming pool. It worked, his

family agreed — up to a point. He was born Thomas Stafford Bazley at Hatherop Cas-tle, a one-time Elizabethan manor house overlooking the River Coln, which, however, has been rebuilt in the last century. Edward VII had considered it when looking for a country retreat, but eventually opted for Sandringham which offered better shooting.

The Bazleys were relatively new to the landed gentry. Thomas's great-grandfather was a Victorian philanthropist who made a fortune out of cotton mills in Lancashire before serving as a Liberal MP for 22 years. Gladstone's letter in 1869 conferring the baronetcy is still among the family memorabilia.

he was four, and eight years later he inherited the title from his grandfather. He therefore went as the third baronet to Harrow, which he detected. and Magdalen College, Oxford, to read politics, philosophy and economics. His Oxford contemporaries included Douglas Jay who became a close lifelong friend. Ill health forced him to come down without taking his degree, however - a disappoint-

ment he never quite got over. For the same reason he was passed unfit for the Armed Forces during the war. He worked for the intelligence services and the Ministry of Information instead and spent part of the war at Bletchley

Park. A prodigious memory

was among his assets. Hatherop Custle had been used as a training ground for Special Operations Executive agents during the war - and later became a preparatory school. Bazley therefore returned in 1945 to live elsewhere on the estate.

More recently still he moved into Eastleach Downs Farm, where he started to introduce organic methods. While driving in Manchester he once found himself passing a street called Bazley Street. He bought the street sign from the

Thomas's father died when

council and erected it on his

drive. He supported a number of charities. These included the Noah's Ark Venture, set up in his grounds, where deprived children from London spent country holidays. Anneka Rice opened an extension there last

He also patronised the arts, especially music, inviting young musicians to give concerts in the amunds. Nigel Kennedy was among them. More recently Bazley had been helping the young Belize pianist and composer Francis Reneau.

He entertained frequently and well, spending hours over the guest lists in order to ensure a good mix. Himself a voracious reader of the broadsheets he expected the same of his guests whom he liked to catch out with riddles based on the news. He wrote to the papers, including The Times, hardly less often than he read them. His favourite theme

was a stream of invective against the Tories - especially his bete noire Margaret Thatcher. A lean, wiry, bespectacled man with a huge sense of fun.

he saw himself as living proof of the benefits of alternative medicine. He was still playing badminton at 87. He reluctantly wore a hearing aid in later years, but mislaid it daily. He therefore turned up the volume of his stereo until the house vibrated with music, from Beethoven to Bartok. He was however a notori-

ously bad driver, amassing a total of 42 motoring offences. He once stopped to ask the way of a policeman, who promised to tell him if he would drive his car off his foot. Kind and generous to a fault and incurably stubborn, he sometimes acknowledged his shortcomings, promising to pay more heed to those around him before indulging his latest

caprice. He met his wife Carmen during the war when, after serving as a dispatch rider, she worked as a tri-lingual secretary in his department. They married in 1945 and Sir Thomas Bazley, who died while happily planning for his 90th birthday celebrations later this year, is survived by her, their three sons and two

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SATURDAY

SUNDAY

HIS HON JOHN BURKETT BAKER

His Hon John Burketi Baker, QC, circuit judge, 1978-96, died of cancer on April 17 aged 65. He was born on September 17.

AS THE circuit judge at llford. John Burkett Baker brought to every case a determination that the parties before him should know that their dispute had been fully considered. His shrewd and fair approach to his work earned him a reputation as an excellent judge.
Yet he was originally in-

tended for the Roman Catholic priesthood, and it was only while he was studying with the White Fathers at Bishop's Waltham that he changed course. He then entered University College, Exeter, where he read law.

RIOT IN MINING

VILLAGE

BATON CHARGES BY POLICE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

After a night of terror on Friday, there was

another serious riot at Barones, the colliery village attached to Harworth Colliery, late last night and in the early hours of this morning. The circumstances of the two

disturbances were quite different. On Friday a determined attack was made to prevent the

workers still employed at the colliery from descending the pit for the night-shift and there

were several street battles between the police and strikers. On Saturday night str attacked the police; bricks and stones were thrown, sticks were freely used and both

police and strikers suffered many casualties The mouble began just before midnight when the police visited a dance hall where a

dance organized by the strikers was in progress in aid of the children's relief fund.

The object of the police was to make investigations into Friday's disturbances and

to arrest several men against whom warrants

had been issued by the Worksop Magistrates

late on Saturday. A crowd of men left the Comrades Club in the village and, armed

with railings torn from the lence surrounding

WORKSOP, April 25.

the Royal Air Force. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1957. On leaving the RAF he became the pupil of Rodney Bax. Then, in 1958, he joined the chambers of Michael Talhot at 1 Essex Court in the Temple. He soon acquired a good Common Law practice on what was then the Oxford Circuit. His thorough preparation of his cases, incisive cross-examination, and concise submissions in plain language, with an occasional shaft of dry wit, were attractive to judges and jurors alike. Between 1969 and 1975, he was prosecuting counsel for the DHSS.

After graduating, he served

for four years as an officer in

In 1970, he became a Deputy Chairman of Shropshire Quarter Sessions and later a

Crown Court Recorder. In 1975, he took Silk. Against this background he was a natural choice for the circuit bench, to which he was

appointed in 1977. Over the

following years, he sat in the Crown Courts at St Albans and Snaresbrook. Additionally he sat each year at the Old Bailey and in the Family Division. He had a specia interest in family work, and for a time was a tutor in that subject for the Judicial Studies Board in seminars held for Assistant Recorders. His last move was to Ilford - a court with a considerable amount of family work - where he sat until his retirement through

ill-health last year.
Throughout his life John Baker was a devout Roman Catholic, who took an active

part in the life of his Church. He was a governor of the Holy Family Convent in Enfield, 1984-89. He was also a member of the Thomas More Society. One of the last public functions he attended was the celebration in Manchester of the 50 years work of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, of which he was chairman, 1981-83. The Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice was conferred upon him in

He married in 1955 a fellow student at Exeter, Margaret Smeaton, with whom he had ten children. His family and the theatre — he was a talented amateur actor and singer were, apart from the law, his two great interests in life. His wife, seven daughters and two of his three sons survive him.

ON THIS DAY

April 26, 1937 类型精致性

A battle began when striking miners tried to A battle begon when striking ministry was prevent those not on strike from going down a pit for a night shift. The following night strikers attacked the police. The disturbances led to a midnight sitting of Worksop

the dub, attacked the police. A police car was overturned and completely wrecked. Another car belonging to a Derbyshire police officer was damaged, and every window in Superintendent Wilson's car was broken. The Barcoles Club was partly wrecked and every window in the Barcotes Institute was

smashed. The situation became so ugly about 1 o'clock this morning that the police were compelled to deliver several baton charges. The result was that many strikers were injured as well as

The Worksop magistrates had a special sitting at midnight, when live men, alleged to have taken part in Friday night's disturhances, were brought before them The accused were MICHAEL KANE, president of the Harworth Miners' Associ-

president of the Harworth Millers Association, Scrooby Road, Barcotes; JAMES MOULD, Essex Road, Barcotes; CORNELIUS FERGUSON, Essex Drive, Barcotes; FRANK JOBSON, Scrooby Road, Barcotes; and SAMUEL McCOOMBE, Galway Terrace. Barcotes. They were charged with besetting the approach to the colliery with a view to compelling a miner to abstain from doing work which he had a legal right to do. Only formal evidence of arrest was given. Inspector Pierre asked for a remand in custody until Monday.

Kane said they pleaded "Not Guilty" and estred legal aid. They also wanted bail so that they could instruct their solicitor. Inspector Pierre said that every facility would be granted to the men to get in touch with their legal advisers.

Kane. "I do not see any harm in our being granted bail. It is not as if we were criminals or anything like that. No harm will be

The police objected to hail and the men were remanded in custody until Monday.

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Major takes command for last week

■ John Major has taken personal control of the Conservative election campaign amid indications of a serious split over tactics at Central Office.

Tory officials have confirmed that the Prime Minister is virtually running operations from Downing Street and his battle bus. The split is on whether Europe or the economy should have

Drought fears persist despite rain

Rain swept across most of Britain giving welcome relief to gardeners and farmers, especially in the South East which had its first significant rain for five weeks. But many more weeks of wet weather are needed to top up reservoirs

IRA disrupts roads

Unprecedented security plans for polling day were announced by the Home Office as the IRA disrupted motorways again... Page 2 Touch of glass

A woman keen to keep up the middle-class look of her road was caught sprinkling glass on a neighbour's drive to deter him parking his pick-up truck. Page 3

Giant planet found US astronomers have found a giant planet in orbit around a star very similar to our Sun Page 4

Teenage rampage

Two teenage burglars who targeted pensioners to finance their drugs habit had been arrested 155 times as they looked for likely victims, a court was told ... Page 5

SAS man jailed An SAS sniper was jailed for supplying arms and ammunition

to a man he believed to be an East

End gang leader Page 6

Preachers guilty

Street preachers claimed persecution after a father and daughter were found guilty of obstructing

Dinosaurs' graveyard Remains of primitive birds. mammals and dinosaurs have

been found in a remote region of

northern China Mongol dream dashed Mongolia's hope of a better life under democracy are fading. Pov-

erty is increasingPage IS Pressure on Juppé

Alain Juppe, the French Prime Minister, was under fire as cracks appeared in his centre-right majority's election campaign Page 19 **Grey power**

As Pope John Paul II visibly declines, the éminence grise of the Vatican, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Bavaria, is building an ever higher profile Page 20

Child artist discovered, 11 years late Any mother would be excited to see a drawing by her son used

to illustrate the television weather forecast. But they wouldn't all be as puzzled as Diana Coode. Her son is a 20-year-old art student. He sent in the drawing 11 years ago

NATUIRIE NOTIES

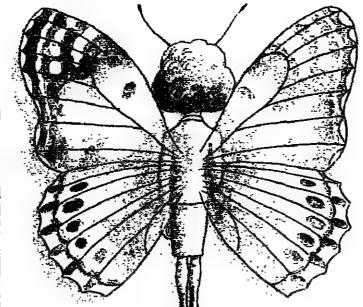


Fig. 1 Upperside



Painted Lady

It uses its top profile to blend in with new surroundings and to disguise the true colouring beneath. Flutters to deceive.

OPINION

Below the belt: Labour lies are particularly uncomfortable from a Labour leader who has tried to build his reputation on trust and decency. That does not sit easily beside the tactic of terrifying pensioners Page 23

Springtime in Paris: Eurosceptics here require the Communists in France to outperform present expectations – an *entente* improbable but possibly cordiale..... Page 23

** LETTERS Major's capacity to govern; politics and farmers. Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The past month has witnessed the most sustained act of political discipline ever staged in peacetime Britain. A party, a mass movement, an entire political generation, has been chloroformed Page 22

Simon Barnes: We don't appreciate rain in this country. This is a cold damp island and in the long, dark days we ache for the sun Page 22

OBITUARIES -Peter Earle, journalist: Sir Thomas Bazley, country landowner.

BUSINESS

Regan thwarted: The Co-operative Wholesale Society emerged victorious from a High Court hearing at which the judge described Andrew Regan's aborted takeover bid as clearly dishonest . Page 27

Economy: The British economy grew at its fastest rate for more than two years in the first quarter of 1997, led by the service sector Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 18.8 to close at 4369.7. Sterling rose from 99.6 to 99.7 after a fall from \$1.6265 to \$1.6230 but a rise from DM2.7927 to DM27977...

ARTS SPORT

Tory heritage: "Have the Motor racing: Eddie Irvine was in provisional pole pospast 18 years in the arts world been a Nightmare ition after the free practice in Yobville Manor?" asks session for tomorrow's San Richard Morrison Page 21 Marino Grand Prix. Page 52 Cricket: Hove, normally the Curtain up: Emmanuelle most sedate venue in county Beart, of Manon des cricket, is to play host to a Sources, makes her British Sunday league game under stage debut... floodlights Page 52 Rude vigour: Geoff Schu-Rugby union: Wasps can mann's revue-stye show at clinch their second Courage Stratford East revels in Clubs Championship title tohilarious political incorrday at Northampton Page 48

CAR 97 Women competing in Formu-

SECTIONS MASAZINE

Roberto Alagna: The fourth tenor is back Page 8 Drugs trail: Who is producing Ecstasy?... Page 23 House Style: Page 37

Weekend

Club scene: London clubs go rurai Pages I, 2



SW205 ... Home life: My friend the mother-in-law Page II

sy Cabinet......Page 6 Young fiction: Novelist

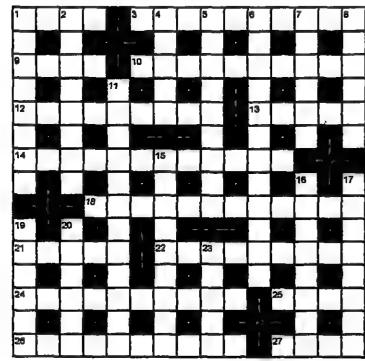


Art of sport: The pitch invades the gallery ... Page 4 Food: What's on: Pages 15-21 a shoestring....... Page 21 TV, radio guide:23-52

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,464

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .



ACROSS

- Brawn made from meat (4). 3 Supplier of tanks bringing tears
- 9 One who draws out of a bank (4). 10 Men on jury confused about a mechanic (10).
- 12 Reduces a tip and makes an impression (4,1,4). 13 Erica taking old language (5).
- 14 Scene of action where William fought, with reason (12). 18 Called home before - 1 had a meal in between (12).
- 21 Roman Catholic holding priest's keepsake (5). 22 Fruit in tree can go off (9).
- 24 Big groups of companies like this can expect support from above 25 Praise thus returned two-fold (4).
- 26 One of the sportsmen who got booked twice (10). 27 Cursed missing sailor and east

Solution to Puzzle No 20,458 GUYFAWKE L G A U U U U M EVEN TELEGRAPHY

Solution to Puzzle No 20.463 I B C A B II B OONDBINN BIELD O D II M U NISSIS VANOUISII

Smelling salts found in city block

2 A detente arranged but it's lack-

Burying creature destroying the

6 To bargain selfishly, we all had

7 Prompt about going on guard (6).

8 Sound suppressor for a detection

Smell of an eel cut up (5).

need to get nasty (5,3,4).

strained a prisoner (4.3.5).

Romans didn't have (6).

23 So-called fish dance (5).

20 Phil's instrument in France (6).

some degrees? (9).

ing in teeth (S).

marrow (9).

device (6).

a bean (8).

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: O B Harper. London: N A M Butler. Wivenhoe. Essex: N
Delaney. Dublin: C V G Harries, Stoke Bishop, Bristol; M Rippin. Market Drayton,
Shropshire.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 8 16 pm Last quarter April 30

London 8 16 pm to 5 40 am Bristol 8.25 pm to 5 50 am Edinburgh 8 42 pm to 5 38 am Manchester 8 30 pm to 5 43 am Penzance 8 33 pm to 6 06 am Sun rises: 5 40 am Sum setts 8 17 pm

Last quarter April 30 London B 17 pm to 5.38 am Bristol 8.27 pm to 5.48 am Edinburgh 8 44 pm to 5.36 am Manuchester 8 32 pm to 5.41 am Penzance 8.35 pm to 6.04 am

HIGH TIDES Il Bullet also a measure that re-15 University in no position to give 16 Column headings in large letters Person axed like this doesn't have 19 This system had nothing the litracombe King's Lynn Leith

HIGHEST & LOWEST

SUPPORT RECYCLING

FORECAST

General; some central and southeastern parts of England will start dry but most areas will have a cloudy day with rain at times. The rain will become persistent in places, with some heavier bursts especially in the south. Towards late afternoon brighter wea-

. Page 25

towards late atternoon originar weather should spread from the west. Northern Ireland, north and east Scotland should start dry but cloud and rain elsewhere will gradually extend northeast, leaving only the far northeast of Scotland, Orkney and Shelland dry with some aunahine at the call the day. the end of the day.

England, E Midlands, W Midlands: a cloudy start but rain will spread from the west during the morning. Wind southeast, moderate. Max 14C (57F). ☐ E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: cloudy with rain at times. Wind southeast, moderate or fresh. Max 8 to 10C (48-50F).

I N Wales, NW & Cent N England, Lake Dist, IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: rain at times. Wind southeast, moderate or fresh. Max 10 to 12C (50-54F).

Chennel Isles, SW England, S Wales: a wet start, then brightening during the late entermoon. Wind southeast, moderate. Max 13C (55F). Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland: a dry bright start but doud and outbreaks of rain will apread slowly from the south. Max 8 to 10C (48-50F).

☐ NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: sunny spells. Wind southeast, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

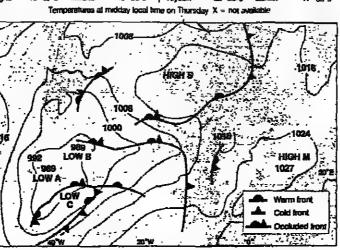
☐ Outlook: some rain in all areas, becoming drier again in the south

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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ABROAD

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B Aires
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Barbados
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Changes to the chart from noon: lows A, B and C will move northeast; A and B will change little but C will decline; high S will build slightly but will drift east; high M will remain stationary with little change in central pressure

NOOK TODAY Sunny Sunny Cloudy Druzzie Overcast Rain **P** Lightning Snow Wind speed (mph) 20 Sea conditions

... Page 2ł

Delileh delighta: Scottish

Opera has staged Samson

and Delilah splendidly on

TORONTO, NEW YORK, PARIS

Concorde between Heathrow and Toronto ● five nights at Sheraton ● Niagara with helicopter ● city tour ● harbour cruise ● Phantom of the Opera ● BA 747 depart 10 July, 29 August or 6 September £1,999

Concorde to New York on 23 June ● four nights at Skyline ● helicopter, yacht and coach tour £1,499

BA 747 to New York on any day • four nights at Hilton (inc.Sat.) • Concorde to Heathrow £2,499 Concorde supersonic to Paris on 12 May or 30 Sept.

● guided city tour ● Eurostar to Waterloo £499

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS Orient-Express to Southampton on 27 May ● five night Oriana cruise to Monte-Carlo via Gibraltar o tour Riviera

Concorde supersonic from Nice to Heathrow £1,699

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June • three night Oriana cruise to Norwegian Fjords • jet return £999

Concorde to Bergen on 19 June • two night Oriana cruise to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299 Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August • six night Oriana cruise to Tenerile via Praia da Rocha and

Casablanca • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,799 QE2 & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 18 June • five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Lisbon and Tangier • city tour ◆ Concorde supersonic to Heathrow from £1,599

Orient-Express to Southampton on 13 July • eleven night Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Iceland • Concorde return £2,999 Concorde, QE2 and Orient-Express holidays to New York (and Toronto) • departures every month from £2,899

For our full colour brachure, please telephone: 0181-992 7000 or write to

ABTA

SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL





Kangoi buvouit for £30m

the Peau for Care Ober 1. \$19.5 m. . Berset . millius : 145 Vote DWN:-ing out

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TODAY

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INSIDE **SECTION** TODAY

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Monday Tuesday ∪ Wednesday Thursday Friday

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WORKING WEEK

A cheerleader stimulated by cultural shift **PAGE 29**



Business

A plea on behalf of small savers from Graham Searjeant PAGE 31



SPORT

Tamburello pays final act of homage to Senna **PAGES 46-52**

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF CHRISTCHURCH INSURANCE

PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997



Headlines for rappers and pop stars from Philip Pass, managing director of Kangol, left, and Andrew Hartley, with models Sarah Penman and Jo Whitaker

Kangol buyout for £30m

BY ADAM JONES

KANGOL Group, the hat maker whose products adorn the heads of pop stars, has been bought by its managers for £30 million.

The buyout was backed by £10.5 million from Kleinwort Benson, Kangol, founded in 1938, made a profit of £3.5 million before interest and tax last year. It was previously owned by the Marmon Corporation, a private industrial company belonging to the Pritzker family of Chicago.

The buyout will lead to expansion in Kangol's licensabout \$40 million of its headwear worldwide last year, sales of licensed products, including shoes, bags and casual wear, were about \$100 million. Kangol gets a 5 to 7 per cent cut of the smaller wholesale value in these

Japan is an important market. Andrew Hartley, a director of Kieinwort Benson Development Capital and a new Kangol board member. said the Japanese found the Kangaroo embiem "cute".

He said the surging popularity of Kangol bats among US rappers and UK celebrities such as Liam Gallagher, the Oasis singer, had helped boost sales last year. Senior debt financing and

working capital facilities. worth £18.9 million, were provided by NatWest

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET MORCES

| PTSE 100 | 4369.7 (-16.6) 3.70 |
|--|---|
| FTSE All share Nikkei New York: | 2112,15 (-8.32) 18612,86 (-85.21) |
| Dow Jones | 6732.05 (-60.20)* 766.37 (-4.81)* |
| J.S. | |
| Federal Funds Long Bond Yeld | 5°16%* (5°14%) 93°1±* (94°14) 7.14%* (7.13%) |
| Tomo | ON-NEWEY |
| 3-mth Interbank. | |
| Liffe long gilt future (Jun) | 108% (10912) |
| future (Jun) | 108°4 (108°a) |
| New York: | 108% (109°a) |
| New York: S. Constor: S. D. M. FFr | 1.6245* (1.6260) 1.6251 (1.6263) 2.7974 (2.7924) 9.4464 (9.4222) |
| New York: S. Constor: S. Const | 1.6245* (1.6260) 1.6231 (1.6263) 2.7974 (2.7924) |

Tokya ciosa Yen 125.85 MORTH SEA OIL

Brest 15-day (Jul) _ \$18.40 (\$18.45)

The warning from Douglas Meildoon throws into question the whole regulatory process for pricing controls. Until London close \$342.55 (\$340.75) denotes midday trading price

dispute over pricing.

Airbus in merger talks with Lockheed

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is holding merger talks with Lockheed Martin, the leading American aerospace group. The link-up is aimed at combatting Boeing's global dominance in avi-

. Talks between Lockheed and Airbus have involved Yves Michot, chief executive of Aérospatiale, and Norman heed, which is the world's biggest defence conglomerate, with sales of \$27 billion last year. Airbus's turnover was \$8.8 billion last year, down from \$9.6 billion in 1995.

A full merger would be impossible before Airbus converts from a multinational consortium to become a single company in 1999. But the two companies are looking at ways

Airbus is currently owned by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France, Dasa of Germany and Casa of Spain, each of which will sign over part of their assets and production sites to Airbus. The company would eventual-

ly seek a stock market listing. David Voskuhl, an Airbus spokesman, said: Talks are being held to determine how far our co-operation with Lockheed will go. We can't but one wouldn't be surprised by this. It makes sense given that there are not that many big players in the industry."

James Blackwell, president and chief operating officer of Lockheed's aeronautical division, said: "We are pursuing opportunities with Airbus. We will look at every opportunity afforded to Lockheed Martin and will always be interested of co-operating in advance of in making good business deals." Last December, Boeing agreed a \$13 billion merger with McDonnell Douglas of America. Together they currently hold 70 per cent of the world civil aviation market.

Insiders expect Airbus and Lockheed to build a strong project-by-project alliance before attempting a corporate link-up. The two groups are poised to announce groundbreaking agreements on some aerospace projects. Lockheed is set to become a risk-sharing partner in the \$10 billion development of Airbus' 800sexter superiumbo.

BAe, which holds a 20 per cent stake in Airbus, has already developed strong links with Lockheed. It is a likely Lockheed partner on the \$170 billion Joint Strike Fighter. America's most advanced military aircraft project. An anly, after the granting of \$1.1 billion of US Government development aid.

Lockheed and BAe also joined forces earlier this month to compete for the \$5 billion contract for a battlefield reconnaissance vehicle, described as the modern equivalent of the Cavalry's Indian scout.

The transatlantic merger coincide with the 800-seater is expected to get the final go-ahead in 1999. Its main market is America and Lockheed's participation in the production process would increase the sales potential. Airbus recently said it was looking for a North American partner to take on up to 15 per cent of the superjumbo investment and development.

Tempus, page 30

Raider to pay Co-op damages

By Sarah Cunningham

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society emerged victorious from a High Court hearing yesterday at which the judge described Andrew Regan's aborted £1.2 billion takeover bid as "clearly dishonest" and based on "a serious, gross and

wilful breach of confidence". Mr Justice Lightman upheld an injunction banning Mr Regan and his associates from using material obtained from Allen Green, the CWS executive suspended last week. He also said Mr Green, Mr Regan, his business partner David Lyons, and their companies Galileo and Lanica Trust should pay punitive "indemnity" costs to CWS, expected to run into tens of thousands of pounds.

CWS is also seeking damages in the courts, which it said "will run into millions". The judge agreed that Ham-bros Bank, which advised Mr Regan on the bid, be added to the civil action. Hambros de-

clined to comment. According to Brian Keelan, the SBC Warburg banker who led the CWS campaign, an attempt was made to halt the whole process early this week. "Our side went to them on Monday with a file of information and said you had better close it all down, and they didn't," he said. Although Mr Keelan would not specify, it is believed that, at the meeting, bros some of the incriminating material they had gathered on Galileo and Mr Regan.

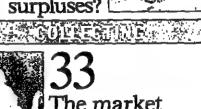
CWS is also planning civil action against Travers Smith Braithwaite, Galileo's lawyers. Travers, which is expected to resign as Galileo's lawyers, said: "We will resist most strongly any claim which may be made against us." It emerged in court that many Continued on page 28, col i

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on the unanswered question at M&G

Who owns the pension fund surpluses?



The market in election memorabilia

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Halifax. Young savers protest



INVESTMENT



MARTIN · CURRIE

Are investment trusts going out of fashion?

total of £220m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MORGAN GRENFELL is to pay 200,000 investors a total of £220 million compensation. equivalent to an average EI,100 each, for losses in the Peter Young affair.

The first slice of compensation to 80,000 direct investors in the three European trusts affected will be paid on Tuesday in either a cheque or units credited to their holdings. More than 70 per cent of investors have opted for units. A further 120,000 investors in nominee accounts will be compensated in coming months.

The news comes just a week after Morgan Grenfell was fined £2 million, plus £1 million costs, for breaches of City rules after Mr Young used investors' money to buy unlisted securities.

The compensation is based not on the trusts' previous track record as among the best in their sector, but on a comparison with the sector average. This will disappoint investors, who put £83 million into the trusts in 1995 to make the most of personal equity plan allowances. The best

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE electricity watchdog in Northern

Ireland may seek a judicial review after the Monopolies and Mergers Commis-

sion appeared to rule in favour of Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) in a

The showdown looked inevitable after

the regulator said he might ignore proposals from the MMC to moderate

pricing controls on the company.

performing European trust over the past year has been Jupiter European, which has risen 40 per cent since last March. This compares with Morgan Grenfell's calculation of compensation for investors. based on an index rise of 15 per cent, across the whole sector. Its European Growth Trust

rose 2.05 per cent. A Pep investor who paid £6,000 into the European Growth Trust in February 1996 and sold at a loss of £1,007 five months later will be paid £1,106 compensation, based on the calculation that the index would have returned

a £99 gain. Peter Young, the senior manager of the three trusts, was suspended in September last year after being interviewed by officials from the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro). Deutsche Bank of

Germany, MG's parent, is estimated to have spent £430

million on supporting the

MG to pay victims | Economic growth at two-year high

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

fastest rate for more than two years in the first quarter of 1997, led by the booming service sector.

Grass domestic product grew at an annual rate of 3 per cent, compared with 2.7 per cent in the last quarter of 1996, according to data published yesterday by the Office for National Statistics

The quarterly GDP growth rate also rose from 0.8 per cent to I per cent in the first quarter.

Service sector growth was especially strong, rising 1.2 per cent for the second quarter running and taking the annual rate to 3.9 per cent. But manufacturing sector growth remains sluggish, increasing an estimated 0.6 per cent in the first quarter - half the service sector rate.

Economists said the figures. which were slightly above expectations, are likely to increase Bank of England pressure on an incoming Chancelfor to raise rates by as much as 0.5 per cent at the first post-Weekend Money, page 40 election monetary meeting on

would have the last word in a dispute

"largely accept the commission's propos-

als" but was not minded to accept

transmission and distribution price controls without an adjustment. He plans a month-long consultation period before

Dr Patrick Haren, NIE chief executive, said: "A judicial review must be the next

stage if the MMC's proposals are not

If Mr McIldoon carries out his threat

adopted. This throws the whole regula-

deciding the price curbs.

tory process into disrepute."

Mr Melidoon said he intended to

between a company and its regulator.

THE economy grew at its May 7. The Bank of England has said that it believes the trend rate for GDP growth is 2.5 per cent and growth at a faster rate is likely to lead to higher inflation.

There is also growing concern that the expected flood of windfall payments from building society flotations will push service sector growth even Marian Bell, Treasury

Economist at the Royal Bank Scotland, forecasts that windfall payments could push GDP growth as high as 5 per cent later this year and called for an immediate 0.5 per cent

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC Markets, gave warning that the incoming Chancellor will face a policy dilemma with rises in interest rates likely to further unbalance the economy by tipping industry back towards rece sssion. The CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce have argued that the next Chancellor should consider raising taxes rather than inter-



The Chinese flag will soon replace the Union Jack in Hong Kong. But what will happen to the economic complexion of the colony? How will companies fare after the changeover? Will investors be seeing red? Martin Currie think not. After all, Hong Kong companies have been investing in

China for many years. And Chinese companies - the 'red chips' - are already listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange. But whatever happens – in South East Asia or elsewhere in the world - you can be sure that Martin Currie will be applying their long-established international investment skills to full advantage. (So no change there.)



For a guide to investing with us, call 0500 61 62 65

INSIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

Martin Currie Investment Management Ltd. Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2RS, Regulated by IMRO.

Watchdogs in power struggle of ignoring part of the MMC's recommendations. NIE is likely to seek a judicial review. He must then prove his decision to be in the public interest.

Mr Melldoon had wanted NIE, which has the highest charges for electricity in the UK, to cut transmission and distribution prices 31 per cent next year and thereafter by 2 per cent per year. NIE had wanted a 22 per cent one-off cut, while the MMC recommended 25 per cent. The highest cut would mean a £47 annual cut in bills. NIE has already made price cuts based on its own estimates.

Tempus, page 30

Stuart Siddall, left, financial director, with Paul Harrison, who is leaving Alpha in the summer to take up a senior job at Standard Chartered Bank

Capital and Regional to pay £147m for five shopping centres

CAPITAL AND Regional Properties is to become the second largest retail property group in the UK after agreeing to buy five shopping centres from Grosvenor Asset Management for £147 million.

The propeties, bought by Grosvenor for £15 million less than a year ago, will lift its gross property assets by 60 per expensive buy is the Howgate Centre in Falkirk, sold for £43.4 million. It has also bought the Alhambra Centre Romford, Selbourne Walk in Waithamstow, and the Sauchiehall Centre, Glasgow.

Grosvenor has made a healthy profit on each of the sales. It paid £46.5 million for Howgate and the Alhambra Centre in Barnsley in February last year, and Capital and Regional has agreed to pay £60.5 million. It made £7 million for Selbourne Walk, bought last July, and made a £2.6 million profit on the Liberty II, which it bought only five months ago for £18.8

Martin Barber, chairman of Capital and Regional, said that he was not aware of how much Grosvenor had originally paid for the properties, but they had nonetheless been

secured for £2 million less than the valuation estimates. He went on: "We don't really mind what other people make out of it, what we want to know is whether its the

There is a marriage value gained in buying the freehold. open a store, we can ask them to do up one of their stores in and that is something we will another centre. It will be a bit consider. of scratch my back.

> The five centres have a combined retail space of 392,000 sq ft with £9.6 million of rental income and an average yield of 8.22 per cent. Capital and Regional

funding the deal through £94 million of borrowings, with a placing and open offer to raise £60 million by placing new shares at 215p a share. company's shares closed 2p easier, at 2334 p.

Alpha chief to quit as profits edge up to £22m

By MARTIN BARROW

PAUL HARRISON, the man who brought Alpha Airports Group to the stock market three years ago, is leaving to take up a senior job at Standard Chartered Bank. the company said vesterday Alpha said it had accepted his resignation "with regret".

His departure comes at an inauspicious time for the company, which awaits the next move of Mohamed Al Fayed. Mr Al Faved acquired a 25 per cent interest in Alpha from Granada for £52 million last November, when he agreed not to bid for the group for at least six months. The self-imposed deadline expires on May 5. Yesterday Alpha shares fell 25p to 1085p. Mr

Al Fayed paid 125p a share. Mr Harrison will leave Alpha in the summer, by which time the company hopes to have found a new chief executive. Until then Rodney Galpin, non-executive chairman. executive role. Mr Galpin is a former chief executive of Standard Chartered.

dard Chartered.

Alpha announced a 6.8 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 to £22.0 million from £20.6 million. But the headline figure was cut back to £7.8 million by a £14.2 million exceptional loss on the sale of US. Viceberg, its American US Kitchens, its American catering firm.

The total dividend rises to 5.25p (5p) a share, with a 3.5p final, payable from adjusted earnings of 10.16p (10.75p).

Mr Galpin said that over the medium term. Alpha would see continuing cuts in management fees from BAA, while it would also be hit by abolition of duty-

□ BAA, the airports operator, is taking a charge of £53 million against its profits for its latest financial year because of a change of accounting policy over the Heathrow Terminal 5 project.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Regal rights issue to fund hotels deal

REGAL HOTEL GROUP is to make its second major rights issue in a year to help to fund the £64.5 million purchase of 13 three-star hotels from Whitbread. It is aiming to raise £37 million through the issue of ordinary and preference shares

and a further £35 million in debenture stock.

Regal is offering one new ordinary share for every five existing shares at 54p. Trading in the new shares is expected to start at the end of May. Regal shares closed unchanged yesterday at 56 2 p. Last May the company raised £67 million with a rights issue at 42p to help to fund the £122 million purchase of 60 White Hart Hotels from Granada. Regal has quadrupled in size in the last year and will now operate 95 three-star hotels, primarily in provincial UK sites. Charles Vere Nicoll, executive chairman, said the properties were complementary with the company's existing portfolio and the purchase should be earnings enhancing. Whitbread said it had made the disposal as part of its strategy to focus on its Marriott and Travel Inn brands.

EDS price tumbles

SHARES of Electronic Data Systems fell more than 20 per cent yesterday in response to the company's surprise disclosure of an 11 per cent decline in profits in the first quarter. The American company, which has numerous contracts with government agencies in Britain, said ner income fell to \$194.1 million from \$218 million in the three months to the end of March. Hugh Shytle, a Cowen & Co analyst, said: "This was a shortfall of historic proportions."

Nissan Life shuts down

JAPAN'S troubled financial sector suffered a new blow yesterday when the finance ministry ordered the closure of Nissan Mutual Life Insurance. It has a workforce of 5,000 and total assets of 2,125.7 billion yen (£10.6 billion). At the end of March liabilities exceeded assets by about 200 billion yen. Nissan Life will continue to pay out death benefits, medical costs and matured endowments, and will accept premium payments while a protection plan is worked out.

Rosebys shares fall

SHARES in Rosebys, the household textiles and soft furnishings group, fell 14p to 29812p after yesterday's annual meeting, where it said like-for-like sales had been affected by uncertainty caused by the general election. The company also announced the resignation of Pat Marsh, who joined the company when it floated in 1992 as a non-executive director. She will be replaced by Donald Macpherson, a director of NatWest Markets. Mrs Marsh will receive no compensation.

Burmah chief's pay falls

JONATHAN FRY, chief executive of Burmah Castrol, made £361,000 from share options, according to the latest accounts from the oil and lubricants group. Mr Fry, who is also chair-man designate of Christian Salvesen, exercised 59,169 options during the year at 486p. The market price was £10.96. His basic salary was £421,000 (£387,000), while benefits and a £55,000 bonus took his total pay to £489,000 for 1996. His total pay in 1995 was £509,000, including a £109,000 bonus.

Publisher sells stake

NIGEL BANCE, publisher of Petroleum Economist, has sold a 15 per cent interest in the publication to Euromoney Publications for El million. Mr Bance, who paid E300,000 for a 49 per cent stake in the magazine seven years ago, is understood to be considering an offer for the College of Petroleum Studies in Oxford. Euromoney now controls 95 per cent of Petroleum Economist and has reserved the right to buy Mr Bance's remaining 5 per cent for up to £2 million.

Warning by Yorkshire

SHARES in Yorkshire Group, the struggling chemicals company, fell from 2424 p to 2124 p after it gave warning at its annual meeting that profits would be hit by price pressures and the strength of sterling. It said incoming orders were holding up in most areas but that margins were being hit in key markets such as textiles. Yorkshire also said that in the long term it remained confident its core activities, particularly in South-East Asia, would enhance shareholder value.

Peugeot sales grow

PEUGEOTS UK operations announced pre-tax profits of £30.5 million for 1996, its best since 1991, compared with £4.9 million in 1995. Richard Parham, managing director, said the company expected sales growth to continue in 1997. Peugeot sold 153,242 cars in the UK in 1996, up from 143,321 in 1995. Its market share increased from 7.37 per cent to 7.57 per cent. Production at the Ryton plant in Coventry rose more than 8 per cent to 85,751, the highest since 1992.

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Holt profits standstill

JOSEPH HOLT, the Manchester brewer that also owns 120 public houses, reported profits little changed at £8.39 million in 1996, up from from £8.38 million, on a furnover that rose to £29.79 million from £29.1 million. Earnings per share were up from 186.15p to 186.74p. A final dividend of 45p (43p) will be paid on June 13, bringing the total to 50p (56p). The company says that its results have been affected by the purchase of 12 pubs this year.

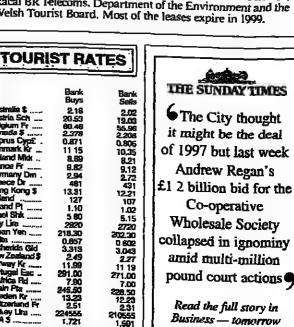
Prior's Cardiff purchase

PRIOR, the UK property company, yesterday bought the freehold of Brunel House. Cardiff. for E5.25 million, financed through borrowings of E3.75 million and cash reserves, from British Rail Property Board. It is a 231,000 sq ft air-conditioned office building that is 70 per cent let, with a rental income of £1.15 million. Tenants include British Telecom, Racal BR Telecoms. Department of the Environment and the Welsh Tourist Board. Most of the leases expire in 1999.





Liam Strong, left, with Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears



THE SUNDAY PADERS

in Barnsley, Liberty II in Raider to pay Co-op damages

Continued from page 27 other banks and businesses had been approached by recent weeks. The banks are: Goldman Sachs: So-Générale: Union Bank of Switzerland: JP Morgan: Lloyds: Bankers Trust; HSBC investment Bank: and Nomura. Nomura agreed to lend £1.2 billion, but withdrew the

offer on Thursday. The property companies Hillier Parker, Healey & Baker and Avonwick were also named in court, as were Jupiter International Group. Price Waterhouse. J Sainsbury, and Leucadia National Corporation, a

US company. Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, said the City's standards "had been put into question" by the affair. He reiterated that the CWS is not for sale.

Tempus, page 30

City Centre buys Est Est Est chain

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

CITY CENTRE Restaurants, cent stake for £1.75 million, funkels and Caffe Uno chains. moved to expand its brand portfolio yesterday with the El3 million purchase of 13 restaurants in the North West.

City Centre is buying a 90 per cent stake in the ninestrong Est Est Est chain of upmarket Italian restaurants - popular with the Liverpool football team - from the founders. Derek and Edwina Liftey. It will also take control of three What's Cooking sites and a wine bar. Mr and Mrs Lilley founded

their first restaurant in 1981 but opened the first Est Est Est in Knutsford eight years ago. They have rapidly rolled the brand out across the North West since winning capital backing from Murray Johnstone Ventures, which took an 80 per cent stake. The Lilleys will continue as

managing directors. They have sold half of their 20 per directors. They

right price for us. We don't know what costs they had to incur to attract tenants. This gives us a much stronger hand with retailers; if they want to

option to buy the remaining 10 per cent for between E1.75

million and £5 million, subject

to performance. James Navior, chief executive of City Centre, said the company is aiming to open two new Est Est Est sites this year and add up to six new restaurants the following year. Shares in City Centre, which now owns around 250 sites. closed down 5p, at 134p.

The restaurant sector has been highly active in recent months, with prices scaring for established chains. Whitbread followed its £133 million purchase of Pelican - which developed the Café Rouge brand - with the £46 million acquisition of the Brightreasons group, best-known for the Bella Pasta brand. Other companies, such as Chez Gérard and Queensborough Holdings, are on the lookout for new brands.



The four English shopping

centres come as a leasehold

purchase, with the local coun-

cils owning the freehold. Mr Barber said this left the com-

pany with the option of buying

the freehold and the chance to

He added: "Pretty much all

strapped for cash and I can't

see the floodgates opening

after the general election.

local authorities are

Jourdan chief attacks rebel

KEITH WHITTEN, chairman of Thomas Jourdan, yesterday accused David Abell, the rebel shareholder. of attempting to secure con-trol without making a takeover bid (Chris Ayres writes).

Mr Abell has requisitioned an extraordinary meeting on May 20, seeking the removal of Mr Whitten and all nonexecutive directors. Mr Abell and his family own 28 per cent of the shares and have the support of a further 11 per cent of investors.

share issue at Ip a share, The deal will pay off Millwall's E7.25 million of

debts, allowing it to come out of the company voluntary arrangement it went into after collapsing earlier this year. This will leave Millwall with around £2.75 million of cash, which the club will use to improve its team and develop the use of the stadium in south-east London.

The deal needs to be an proved by shareholders, who will lose money, as Millwall shares were suspended at 4p. and by the courts. It is not expected that Millwall shares will be relisted until the end of

Mr Paphitis will become chairman of the group and

Paphitis steps in to rescue Millwall

By Jason Nissé

THEO PAPHITIS, the entre- Peter Mead, the advertising Ryman and Contessa retail chains, is to take charge of Millwall, the struggling second division football club, backing a EIG million rescue

rescue the club, will stay on as

deputy chairman. Millwall will have a thorough review of its playing staff in the close season, with the hope of strengthening the squad and moving up a divi-sion within a couple of years. Mr Paphitis also wants to use the stadium for pop con-

certs and has invited John Burrows, the former director of Capital Radio Music Festivals, on to the board as a nonexecutive director. The club also released figures for the six months to

November 30, showing that the club's losses had been reduced from £376,000 to just £51,000, though the improvement was largely due to selling Alex Rea to Sunderland. The loss per share was 0.01p

and there is no dividend.

Tempus, page 30 Sears in last-minute battle to sell Freemans

By Patience Wheatcroft, City editor

THIS weekend Sears is in desperate last-minute talks aimed at clinching the sale of its Freemans mail order subsidiary to Littlewoods. Haggling over price is now putting the deal in jeopardy. If it collapses, shareholders may finally decide that Liam Strong, Sears' chief executive, should pay the price for failing to deliver what he promised.

On Tuesday, Sears is due to report its results for the year to January. The figures will be dire, with pre-tax profits predicted to have tumbled from

E100 million to little more than 170 million. Losses have been escalating in British Shoe Corporation and Freemans is losing ground to competitors. Shareholders are primed for

this but have also been led to expect that the dreadful trading picture will be accompa-

See p.9 Weckend



fused to give Littlewoods exclusivity. Now that they are

sold famous names such as

Saxone he has boiled BSC

down to just four frontages: Shoe City, Shoe Express, Cable & Co and Dolcis. The public's reaction has been a resounding raspberry.

Mr Strong is now being forced to look at pulling out

completely, but he could face a potentially huge bill - the analyst Nick Bubb, of Mees

good cause to insist that the change must be at the top of

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JENNIFER LAING

Cheerleader stimulated by cultural shift

Victoria McKee meets the woman who was

brought in to run Saatchi & Saatchi, the

agency now cutting the cord with Cordiant

passion and



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Monday \(\) about to regain its identity as an independent advertising agency. Jennifer Laing, chief executive of the firm's Thursday North American operations, is optimistic that last week's decision by

Cordiant to split off its component agencies will provide a shot of adrenalin. "I'd like to see that passion and competitiveness come bubbling up a bit more," said the woman who dubs herself "a good cheerleader".

She was on a trip to France last weekend when she heard confirmation of the latest restructuring of the business she first joined straight from college in 1969. She cozes enthusiasm for the change. "Saatchi & Saatchi is one of the most famous brand names in the world and had become blurred by the Cordiant branding," she says. "Now we're freer to

Laing's deep-rooted affection for the firm was what made her the choice to move in as chairman in April 1995 after the departure of the brothers who had bestowed their name on it. In January this year, she moved to New York, when Alan Bishop, who had been running the US show, took over in London. The culture shock was still showing

when I met her in her ele gant cyric of an office in New York. 6 I'd like to see Her move, initiated by Ed Wax, the 60-year-old chief executive officer of competitiveness Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide, was made in such a come bubbling rush that Laing and her long-time personal partup a bit more 9 ner and professional dep-

uty Tony Dalton found themselves in New York without even the security of a rented apartment. So they had to submit to the rigours of interrogation by a New York co-operative board. They made us provide three years' tax returns and commit to having no dogs and no children and not smoking," she says incredulously. "We also had to be interviewed. It was an extraordinary process, but quite good fun." That and numerous personal references eventually secured their one-year lease in one of

ished in a style Laing dubs "basically bland" by a furniture rental firm. From the fur-from-bland Victoriana of her London home she brought just a silver teapot and a few other knick-knacks

Donald Trump's tower blocks, now furn-

to personalise the place. which helped to woo her back to Saatchi & Saatchi after having left the firm, and a top job as joint chairman, in the mid-1980s. She had gone on to run her own agency, and luring her back to Charlotte Street took more than the flashy car — her firm had to be bought too. Ironically, Charles Saatchi had predicted her business would eventually be bought out by Saatchis, though even he probably could not have envisaged the circumstances.

SAATCHI & Saatthi is SoHo (for South Houston Street) area, "where all the sexy advertising companies are now based". Although a considerable way from midtown Manhattan, the office boasts superb views of the skyline and. from Laing's curving corner office, the Statue of Liberty. It has a gym, a domed

atrium and a running track on the roof.
SoHo has its fashionable residents. John F. Kennedy among them, but Laing and Dalton chose to live in midtown near Bloomingdale's, travelling by chauffeured Cadillac. "You don't need a car in New York," Laing said. "You just grab a cab. or pick up the phone to order food. You don't need to cook because everything can be delivered, you send out all your cleaning and mending and don't even have to carry your groceries home. I've slipped into this lifestyle quite effortlessly."

What about the reward for the job, with its responsibilities stretching from Canada to an Francisco? It is more, she concedes, than the £150,000 or so she was receiving in London, taking in six agencies from Canada to San Francisco.

Laing has just landed the Delta Airlines account, which should help with the travelling. Now she just needs a good hotel chain. She points to the large map of the US behind her desk, flanked by six large clocks telling the time from Hong Kong to

Sydney. "See all those red dots? Those are all the places I've been to so far. Cincinnati for Procter & Gamble, Minneapolis for General Mills and Atlanta for Delta are the latest three. In London clients used to come to us, but here we go to clients because of the geography and scale. So I've been out of the

two, and Tony and I are often just passing each other at airports." She may have to go to clients, but has a knack for bringing clients to the agency and keeping them there. It's a source of pride for her that "we didn't lose a single client at Saatchi's London after we went there, after the original exodus". That included big accounts such as British Airways and the Conservative Party. which stayed with Maurice and Charles

office at least one day a week, and often

and their new M & C Saatchi agency. "Not only that, we galvanised the culture towards the clients and looked after them better than ever before and produced the second most profitable year ever in Charlotte Street. We also won more awards than the agency had ever won in She has left behind the red Ferrari its life. We are agency of the year this year," she says proudly, "and the agency had never won that accolade, even when all those so-called charismatic and fam-

ous ad people were there!" By that, of course, she means Charles and Maurice, whose departure may have shocked Charlotte Street, but caused few ripples in the US. "In London we had a crisis — but the crisis brought to the fore the Saatchi culture, that passion for advertising and that competitiveness that We meet in Laing's office in New York's has always been so good for us. But here

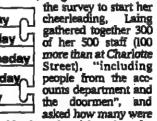


there was no crisis. Charles and Maurice had nothing to do with the day-to-day business in America. They were with the holding company now named Cordiant. American business people had not put them on a pedestal. They just saw a debtridden holding company and held the people in charge responsible." It was a US fund manager, David Herro, who led the demands for change.

in some ways, she regrets not having an excuse to shake up the New York office. "Although I don't want a crisis here, I need to find positive ways to do that." She has already commissioned a major piece of staff research "to understand what the culture is here and what aspects of

Saatchiness I can develop here". Certainly the staff seem keen, hitting the jogging track at dawn and the clients products (like General Mills cereals) in the subsidised cafeteria afterwards. In the special "Kid Connection" they're communicating intensely on the Internet with Saatchi's 300 "virtual" child consultants - when they're not crawling around the floor testing toys. "Although we're a very successful agency, the third-biggest in New York — behind Grey and Y&R [Young and Rubican] — and we bill £1.5 billion, we're not automatically known

here. Not many people could tell you the brands we advertise because the agency's quite modest and doesn't bang its own drum the way, of course, Saatchi's in London does." Not waiting for the results of the survey to start her



ounts department and the doormen", and asked how many were familiar with the advertising that the company did. "A lot weren"t," she says in-credulously. "And my feeling is that you

might as well work in a bank" - what

scorn she puts into that word — "if you don't know what we're doing. If you work in an advertising agency, you should feel some involvement with the product."

So she showed them a video of Saatchi ads "and I said to them 'go home and talk to somebody about our work today' and on Monday I was in the - what do they call it, the rest room? - when a lovely young lady came up to me and said 'I was talking to some friends at the weekend about the Tylenoi spot and they said they'd seen it during the Superbowl coverage but didn't know we'd done it'." Triumphant, Laing replays the video, with ads for everything from the headache reliever Tylenol (a nostalgic father-and-son foot-ball sequence) to Bell Atlantic classifieds (a little black boy mischievously trying to sell all his older brother's effects) and the pro bono ad for an action group against guns, featuring horrific scenes of children killed by them against a background of Peter, Paul and Mary singing Where have all the children gone? A brain surgeon warns that "drugs really mess up your mind" and popular Sister, Sister sitcom stars munch Frosted Cheerios.

Laing admits she's still getting her mind into American culture and can't always trust her gut reactions as she could in Britain, but maintains that a really good ad can cross cultural barriers, which is partly why she's now in New York. The move is towards globalisation," she says. "It's the way the Saatchi world is going and it's the way the world is going. That's what this job swap is about."

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(TEIDDEN ASSETS

Insurance company revels in haunting beauty of its offices

A ans, students, members of ecclesiastical bodies, Americans searching for their ancestral roots and groups of tourists turn up regularly at the City offices of Christchurch Insurance wondering if they can have a look around. Such a flow of strictly non-business visitors is inevitable if your offices are located inside a beautiful 1687 Wren church and its neighbouring vestry, just a few metres away from St Paul's Cathedral.

In 1992, the year Christ-Insurance was formed, the company took tower of Christ Church Newgate Street from the City Corporation. At the same time it also took a lease on the adjoining vestry from United Friendly, which had bought it in 1981 from an Irish property developer.

Curious visitors flock to Wren church rich with history, says Joanna Pitman

architects, Seely & Paget, which specialised in the restoration of City churches bombed during the war, bad restored the exterior and modernised the interior of the vestry and done further restoration work on the

When Christchurch moved in, a spiral staircase was installed in the tower, cabling and computer equipment introduced and now Wren's tower echoes to the sounds of risk-management negotiations - sadly the original bells have disappeared.

In one of the offices, late 17th century and early 18th century memorial tablets look down from the walls. Another, in the upper part of the bell tower, looks out on four sides to a panoramic City

view, one of them being St Paul's at close quarters. The history of Christ

Church, Newgate, begins with the Franciscans, known as Grey Friars, who came to London from Italy in 1224 and occupied land in Newgate. Little is known of the first church erected there, but in 1306 the Grey Friars began work on a magnificent new edifice, probably the largest friars' church in

England. Over the years, the site has been subject to more than its fair share of disasters. During the great European earthquake, which shook London on April 6, 1580, "the roof of Christ Church was so shaken that a stone dropped out of it, killing one person mortally wounding

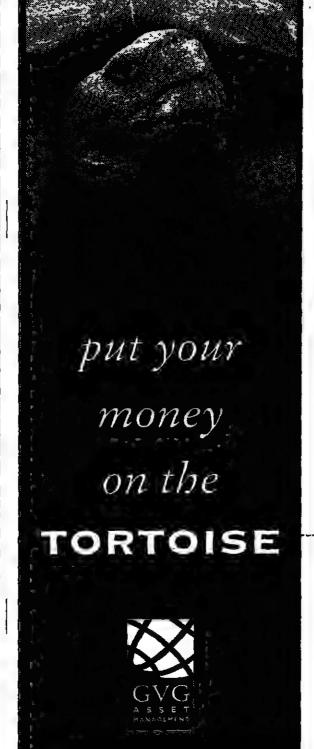
In 1666 the church was ilmost entirely destroyed in the Great Fire. Its remains were left untouched until 1687, when rebuilding was begun to designs by Wren. The steeple was completed in

The church suffered major damage during the Second World War, when a firebomb struck in 1940. All that remained, apart from two aged tower. In 1960 the spire and the upper part of the tower above the circular windows were rebuilt.

The churchyard has survived and is now a quiet oasis in the middle of the bustling city. Isabella, Edward II's queen, is buried here and she is thought to haunt the churchyard. Lady Alice Hungerford is also said to haunt the churchyard. She was acclaimed as the great beauty of her generation but poisoned her second husband and was hanged in 1523.

However, no ghosts have yet seriously disrupted busi-ness for Christchurch Insurance, although Derek Bell, chief executive, does enjoy telling visitors about the campaign waged against the T and the M sections in the office's filing system. Admin-istrative staff regularly find the two files muddled, sometimes with sections missing. Bell wonders whether the culprit could be one Thomas Misenor, who died in 1779 and whose tablet sits on the wall above the filing

Mysterious indeed.



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Such a beautiful church-based office inevitably attracts numerous non-business visitors

Utilities shrug off fears over windfall taxation

JUST six days to polling day and shares of the big utilities were shrugging off any remaining fears about windfall tax and increased regulatory pressures to score some useful gains in a falling market. Merrill Lynch, the broker.

has taken the initiative by publishing a major review of the gas, electric and water utilities. Far from expressing fears about the consequences of a Labour Government, Merrill's Andrew Wright is confident about the future. Faced with takeover activities and balance sheet restructuring, investors have been inclined to overlook their yield attractions.

The market is now over discounting the political and regulatory risks for the utilities. There is still plenty to go for", he insists.

He uses United Utilities, born out of the merger of North West Water and Norweb, as a case in point. The shares rose 13p to 671 2p yesterday where they yield 7 per cent and can muster dividend growth of II per cent

per annum.

He recommends a total of nine companies, four water and five electricity. They include Hyder, up 3½ p at 822½ p, South West Water, 2½ peasier at 670p. Wessex. 9p up at 384p. The electricity companies are Southern Electric, down 6p at 414p, Scottish Power, 12p lighter at 374p, National Power, 2p better at 525½p, National Grid, 6p higher at 221 p. and Scottish Hydro, lp off at 372 p. Northern Ireland Electricity rose 912 p to 38912 p undaunted by the regulator's demand to cut prices by 25 per cent.

The stronger than expected rise in the first-quarter gross domestic product brought with it fresh fears of a rise in interest rates straight after the election. This combined with an opening fall for the Dow Jones industrial average saw share prices lose ground. But the FT-SE 100 index managed to close off the bottom ending 18.8 down at 4,369.7 reducing the rise on the week to 59.2. A total of 900 million shares changed hands.

The Alliance & Leicester provided a tired-looking market with a new lease of life when it began trading on Monday. Institutions pitched their bids in the initial auction way above even the most optimistic forecast. The shares started trading at 522p closing

ROBUSTA COFFEE (6)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

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BAT find ... 500 43 53 64: 13: 32: 36: (517.) 550 Efs 31 42 45, 60% 60 Vodajane ... 200 30' 30: 30: 40 41 14: 18 (720) 300 11 (4* 25 20 25 26

Volume: 5416



Lord Tugendhat. Abbey chairman, saw the shares fall 9p

unchanged at the end of the week on 554p, a premium 32p, It has also provided the new bank's shareholders with a

windfall worth £1,385, Nick Lord, banking analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, says the success of A&L's float owes much to the fact that it is being spoken of as a

ability. It joins a growing list of companies which are findtakeover target two to three years down the line. ing it increasingly difficult to J Sainsbury slipped 2p to 323p after a visit to the supermarkets group this week by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which came

away unimpressed. CLL told clients that the group still has a lot of

ground to make up and is cautious about prospects for its Giant Food stake in the US. CLL rates the shares no better than a "hold".

He maintains that the rest of the banking sector will remain underpinned as fund managers continues to increase their weightings in the sector during the months ahead. Those likely to feature include

Barclays, down 19p at £10.885 after a strong run, NatWest Bank, lip off at 710p HSBC. 1812p down at £15.6312, and Lloyds TSB, 5p dearer at 557p.

But Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has turned cautious of Abbey National, 9p

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS #/barrel POB

| 18.00 | 0.20 | 18.33 | 0.20 | 18.33 | 0.20 | 18.33 | 0.20 | 18.33 | 0.20 | 18.33 | 0.20 | 18.34 | 0.20 | 18.40 | 0.20 | 18.40 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

IPE FUTURES (GNI LA) GAS OIL

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LIFFE OPTIONS

90: 90: 40 48: 12: 17: 23 860 7: 17 29 42 45: 90 9 8: 680 48 54: 60 28: 33 41 700 22 31 37: 57 61: 69

FISE INDEX POST

4250 4300 4150 4400 4150 4500

Aug . 168.25-68.50 Sep . 170.50-70.75 Vol: 14248

sell their goods abroad. They include SmithKline Beecham, up 5p at 9442p. Reed International, down 165p at Ell.222 and Dorling Kindersley, 12p off at 2972p.

cheaper at 8162 p, after Thurs-

day's uninspiring trading up-

date. Word is Laing may be on

the verge of downgrading its

ICI, 2p firmer at 702 p, has

become the latest company to

complain about the damage a

strong pound does to profit-

profits numbers.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse, the merchant bank, says it points to earnings problems for many exporters later in the year. "It will be the perfect excuse for a lot of companies. Any problem with earnings will be blamed on the pound.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

| W | int's | | | | |
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| + | 78%p. | | Insti | tutional b Profits we | uyinç |
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LIFFE WHEAT

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

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RUBBER (No 1 RSS Ctf p/fc) May ______ 71_50-72_00

3math: 2368.0-2399.0

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Series Jul Oct Jan Jul Oct Jan

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Fing(bits - 650 25% Novi 57 8 20 25% (1965) 700 4% 23 33 37% 47 \$4%

Series Jun.

Vot: (#/Da.5

1884650 83028

from Vickers also caused a stir in the market. Once again the impact on profits of a strong pound was blamed, along with heavy discounting of its Rolls-Royce and Bentley models. Vickers rallied 42p to 206p yesterday, but remained 20p down on the week. Danny Bevan at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, feels the shares have now come back too far and has been urging clients to top up their holdings. He takes a similar view of TI Group, 3p better at

But there no such support for Siebe, down 222p at 912p, for a two-day deficit of 422 p. Word is the company is poised to make a significant acquisition. Siebe says it never comments on market speculation.

Its also been a difficult week for the retailers, particulary big-ticket variety. Despite an impressive set of profit numbers earlier in the week from DFS Furniture, un-changed at 5522p, several brokers have reported a downturn in big-ticket sales during the past month as uncertainty over the election and a slowdown in the housing market take their toll.

Carpetright has been the hardest hit with the price sliding a further 3p to 469½ p yesterday. The various build-ing society windfalls may provide some benefit, but according to ABN Amro Hoare Govett, it could be the final quarter of the year before there is any sustained pick-up

Laura Ashley continued to lick its wounds after Thursday's profits warning. But some brokers say the shares are worth a punt at these levels and the price firmed 2p to 106p as 25 million shares were traded.

☐ GILT-EDGED: There was further steepening of the yield curve as government securities again underperformed overseas bond markets during a lacklustre

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished E°32 lower at £10834.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent fell £3 to £1012532, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £'s off at £1024.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were lower as the Dow Jones industrials continued to erase recent gains. The industrial average was off 60.20 to 6,732.05 at midday.

Previous open interest: 172289 German Govt Bond (Bund) Italian Govi Bond (BTP)

Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)

Three Mth Euroven

Three Mth Euroswiss Three Mth ECU FTSE KO

MONEY RATES (%)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt: 3374.10 (-23.26) Singapore 2019.60 (-0.57) Brussels 12269.33 (-103.99) Paris London: 4369.7 (-18.8 4500.5 (-16.9 2143.0 (-9.0 PTSE 350. FTSE Eurotrack 100 2196.79 (-10.15 FTSE All-Share _______2112.15 (-8.37) FTSE Viael Initres ______116.36 (-0.46)

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

E:SDR . RECENT ISSUES 100 Aurora Inv Trust Chariton Athletic Close B Heal's Lady in

NMT (5

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Schange Index
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| stle Utd | 125 | + | l _a |
| tar Secs | 2612 | | |
| Tech Venture | 95 | | |
| ram (143) | 155% | | |
| Investments | 1021: | | ' |
| Hldgs | 10712 | | |

RIGHTS ISSUES

United Overseas Grp 65 + 35

Ask Central n/p (160) 35 Break for the Brdr n/p 1's Edge Props n/p (135) 181: Luminar n/p (330) 57¹2 Pembersons n/p (18) 3

MAJOR CHANGES

| RISES: |
|---|
| Grosvenor Inna 205p (+11p |
| Waste Mgt Intl 250p (+1113p |
| Old Eng Pub 254p (+111:p |
| Tilbury Dougls 715p (+30p |
| PizzaExpress 689p (+211-p |
| Danke Ba Sys 4621 p (+10p |
| Compass Gp 681p (+1012p |
| Telspec 262'-p (-12'-p |
| Blacks Leis 4751:0 (-80 |
| |
| FALLO. |
| FALLS: |
| Stientrught 315p (-221-p) |
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| Silentrught 315p (-22'-p) Rosebys 298'-p (-14p) Cowie 391'-p (-14p) BAA 518p (-14p) Siebe 912p (-22'-p) |

... 293'ap (-11'ap)

...... 386':p (-9p)

Triality Hidge 3031:p (-111:p)

Closing Prices Page 45 LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

M(N)

12 mp

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EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

3'r3'n 3'r3'n

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open \$340.60-340.90 Classe; \$342.30-342.80 High: \$342.30-342.80

Platinum: \$379.25 (£233.55) Silver: \$4.73 (£2,905) Palladium: \$161.50 (£99.45)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Low: \$340.60-340.90 AM: \$341.35

2.3518-2.3540 1.1426-1.6258 11.443-11.471 9.3940-9.4510 12.474-12.649 204.05-304.78 19.588-19.700

Вгиззеіз ...

| 1 | DOLLAR RATES |
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| ă. | Australia |
| 7 | Austria |
| 0 | Canada |
| _ | Denmark 6.5443-6.5463 |
| ei Li | France |
| , | Germany 1.7175-1.7185 |
| 1 | Hong Kong 7.7470-7.7480 |
| 0 | Ireland 1.5485-1.5495 |
| 7 | Italy |
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| - 1 | Malaysia 25075-25095 |
| b | Netherlands 1.9320-1.9330 |
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| Abbey Nil Atlied Dom | 4,200 | Licyds TSB | 6,700 |
| | 2.100 | LUCES Varily | 5,000 |
| AB Foods | 1.600 | Marks Spr | 8.300 |
| BAT Inds | 5.500 7.100 | Mercury Ass | |
| BG IIIus | 10,600 | MatWill 8k Nat Grid | 4.200 |
| BOC | 534 | Nat Power | 4,600 |
| IIP | 10.300 | Next | 3,200 |
| RSkyB | 1,800 | Omne | H |
| BIR | 4,900 | PAO | 2,100 |
| | ZV,200 | Peurson | 3,100 |
| Bik of Scot | 1,500 | PowerGen | 2,200 |
| Barciays | 2.400 | Prudentlal | 3,500 |
| 225 | 1,100 | RMC | 2,200 |
| Blue Circle | 7,400 | RTZ | 2,900 |
| Boots | 2.400 | Rallitrack | 1,500 |
| BA: | 1,700 3,900 | Rank Group | |
| British Land | 1,800 | Reed (pt) | 1,300 |
| Brit Steel | 1,100 | Rentold in | 2,000 |
| Burntah Cst | | | σαου |
| human Cab | 2,700 | Rolls Royce | 4.200 |
| Cable Wire | 5,600 | Royal & Sun | 2,000 |
| Cadbury | 1.900 | Royal Bk Sct | 6 100 |
| Earlion Ons | | Salcway | 3,000 |
| | 15,900 | Sainsbury | 923 |
| Cm Union | 9,000 | Schroders | 124 |
| Dixons | 759 | SCOL & NCW | 1.300 |
| EMI | 1,400 | SOX POWER | 3.800 |
| Energy Gp | 3.700 | Syrn Trent | 2,100 |
| Enterpr Oll | 1.600 | Shell Trans | 4,700 |
| GKN | 1.700 | Siebe | 2,600 |
| GRE | 4,900 | Smill Ech | 5,300 |
| GUS | 4.600 | Smith Nph | 5,500 |
| Gen Acc | 3,600 | Smiths Inde | 488 |
| Gen Elec | 8,400 | Sid Charte | 1,600 |
| Glaxo Well | 3,800 | TI Gp | 2,900 |
| Granada | 2.800 | Tate & Lyle | 2,500 |
| Grand Mer | 3.000 | Tesco | 8,600 |
| Gulantes | 1.300 | Timmes W | 2,200 |
| HSDC | 1,300 | Tomkins | 2,700 |
| Hamson | 6,333 | Unliever | 1,000 |
| Hays | 1,000 | Old Utilities | 1,300 |
| C | 5,100 | Lite News | 171 |
| imp Toh | 4.500 | Vudalone | 4,800 |
| Kingfisher | 2.400 | Whitbread | 1,500 |
| LATMO | 374 | Wolstley | Mo |
| Ladbroke | 4,800 | Zeneca | 1700 |

TEMPUS

Mid-air rendezvous

record established on its four

other centres, a re-rating would seem sure to follow.

In Aberdeen, it has almost

trebled the visitors in three

years through stunts like

hiring Marilyn Monroe

lookalikes to lure in the

shoppers - not the kind of

tricks expected by an average

dowdy property company.
In Wood Green, it worked

HOT PROPERTY

Jan Feb MarApr MayJun Jul AugSepOct NovDecJan Feb MarApr

THE primary goal of Airbus must be to catch up with Boeing. The McDonnell Douglas merger last December shattered the illusion that Airbus could catch up quickly with the aircraft builders from Seattle. Boeing is currently set to dominate the world aerospace sector for decades to come.

But an Airbus merger with Lockheed would be a dramatic move that could create a fighting force equal to Boeing-McDonnell Douglas. So far. Airbus and Boeing have only been compering in civil aviation. Although the European consortium made huge strides over the first half of this decade. it still couldn't match the Americans' market share, let alone their productivity rates. But now both businesses are putting more emphasis on the military side by linking up with Lockheed and McDonnell, the world's number one and two

defence groups respectively. As Lockheed is the bigger of the two, the balance will be redressed towards Airbus. British Aerospace shareholders have already enjoyed a strong share price rise, helped in part by the Airbus decision to convert from a consortium into an ordinary company and float on the stock

market. But the news gets better. Assuming that transatlantic co-operation will lead to a further relaxation of workshare arrangements. British Aerospace will gain a greater share of Airbus contracts. BAe investors should also remember that their company is already co-operating with Lockheed on a number of defence projects. The merger talks are good news for BAe shareholders, although the benefits may only be seen in the long term. Stay on board.

the same magic and lifted

rentals by 13 per cent simply

through good marketing

ideas. The same magic has

been sprinkled on its other

centres, and now it is sitting

with five well-positioned

high yielding properties without having set any of its

clever tricks into action. The

shares should benefit from a

230

180

170

160

Cap & Reg

AT FIRST SIGHT, it would appear that Capital & Regional properties has been well and truly ripped off in its enthusiasm to shift away from office properties to the bright lights of shopping centres.

It has handed Grosvenor Asset Management a £32 million profit on centres bought less than a year ago. and seems to care very litte about the money lost.

But its glee is well founded. Office-weighted property stocks have taken a beating of late, and the sector is still a hothed of outdated valuations and over-renting.

Now C&R has catapulted itself into a major player in shopping centres, and is braced to enjoy the full flow of the consumer spending

if it lives up to the track

Millwall

FOR those who are still depressed about their Newcastle United shares, there is always a bright side. You could be an investor in Millwall. The shares stood at ip when the owners of the Division Two club went into administration earlier this vear, and the rescue rights issue to bring the company back to life is at only lp.

So should holders investi

Well, they have until July 11 to make up their minds, but the issues are fairly clear cut. If Miliwali is going to remain as a struggling football club, even with less expensive playing staff after the cost cutting by Buchler Phillips, the administrators, then it would be

wise to steet clear. But Then Paphitis, the new chairman, has much bigger ideas. He hopes to use the poorly located stadium for music events. Investors have heard all this before, and the stadium remained sorely un-

derused. But there are a couple of reasons to give Paphitis the benefit of the doubt. He has a good track record buying companies out of receivership — notably retailers Ryman and Contessa — and making them profitable. He also wants to use Miliwall as the starting point for a more broadly based leisure group.

At 1p a share, backing Theo is a gamble worth taking.

Utilities

ROOM for some rejoicing in the Northern Ireland Electricity camp after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reduced the scale of pricing curbs planned by the regulator. But the joy was short lived. The regulator now says that he may ignore some of the MMC recommendations. With that threat into further uncertainty, but

he has also cast a shadow

over all utility stocks. Com-

pected to argue over pricing reviews and if the utility disagrees with the regulator the argument can be put to the MMC. That in itself is a risk because the company could suffer a more severe ruling from the MMC.

But the NIE case opens the possibility that even if the MMC is kind to the utility then the regulator can refuse to accept all the commission's recommendations. If any subsequent legal challenges allow the regulators to get away with this, then we can expect leaner times for utility shares. That, along with the windfall tax, reduces the attractions of utility shares time to consider cashing in

those profits. Shareholders in the former British Gas should be especially aware. They may be hoping that the MMC tempers pricing plans for Trans-

| LISE A | JLUMES |
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| 3 894 | land Secs 1400 |
| ASDA Gp 18,200 Abbey Nil 4,200 | Legal & Gn 1,100 |
| Allied Dom 2.100 | Licyds TSB 6,700 LucesVarity 5,000 |
| All Foods 1.600 | Marks Spr 8.300 |
| BAA 5,500 | Mercury Asset 80 |
| BAT Inds 7,100 | MatWil 8k 4,200 |
| BG 10,600 | Nat Grid 1,500 |
| BOC 534 | Nat Power 4,300 |
| UP 10,300 | Next 3,200 |
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| BTR 4.900 | P&O 2.100 |
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| Bk of Scot 1,800 | PowerGen 2,200 |
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| Buss 1,100 Blue Circle 7,400 | RMC 2,200 RTZ 2,900 |
| Boots 2,400 | RTZ 2,900 Railitrack 1,500 |
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| Burron 2,700 | Rolls Royce 4,200 |
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| Carlton Ons 1,000 | Salcmay 3,000 |
| Centrica 15,900 | Sainsbury 923 |
| Cm Union 9,000 | Schroders 124 |
| Dixons 759 | 5001 & NCW 1,300 |
| EMI I,400 | SCOX Prover 3,800 |
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| Enterpr Oll 1,600 | Shell Trans 4,700 |
| GKN 1,700 | Siebe 2,600 |
| GRE 4,900 | Smili Beh 5,300 |
| GUS 4,600 | Smith Nph 5,500 |
| Gen Acc 3,600 | Smiths Inds 488 |
| Gen Elec 8.400 | Sid Chartd 1,600 |
| Glaxo Well 3,000 | Ti Gp 2,400 |
| Granada 2,800 | Tate & Lyle 2,500 |
| Grand Mer 3,000 | Tesco 8,600 |
| Guinness 1,300 | Timmon W 2,200 |

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UNFAIR SHARES 36

Why payout divides two sisters

WEEKEND MONEY

PENSION PLIGHT 35

Why a service widow cannot get a loan



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Pension power gathers steam

oping over a fortune that may amount to as much as £60 billion. This is the estimate of the surpluses generated by UK pension funds whose total assets are £65 billion. But to whom does this money belong? Workers or bosses?

Dennis Cockerill, chairman of the recently formed Committee of Unilever Pensioners (Coup) action group, said the committee had been "snowed under" with letters of support from retired employees at other companies, since revelations that it was planning to challenge Unilever's plans for the

use of its £800 million surplus. Employers are already facing a number of high profile challenges to their plans for using surpluses which have built up in the fund. Booming stock markets in the 1980s swelled pension fund coffers, and surpluses built up as the recession started to bite in the 1990s and companies took on lewer staff, according to the National Association of Pension Funds. But the ownership of surpluses has become a bone of contention between employers and pensioners. Pensioners and employees argue that any surpluses should belong to them because the fund is set up for their benefit. But employers point out that they contribute on employees' behalf and guarantee pension payments.

Next month, the National Grid will appeal against a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman that it must repay £46 million of a £70 million surplus which it had "misused" to pay for early redundancies. If the ombudsman's decision is upheld, other privatised utiliSara McConnell finds out what

the latest tussle between firms

and scheme members will mean

ties could be forced to repay a total of more than El hillion to their pension funds. In a separate case, the Government was told by the ombudsman to repay £163 million to the National Bus pension fund which it took when the company was privatised in 1990.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch company, is braced for determined lobbying by pensioners at its annual meeting in two weeks. Pensioners are angry that their share of the £300 million surplus will total only £70 million. Mr Cockerill, of Coup, said: "We would like to see the enormous surplus shared more fairly with more money for pensioners, deferred pensioners and dependants." Unilever proposes to keep £500 million as a "cushion" in case of a future downturn in the fortimes of the pension fund. A further £220 million will be used to give the company and its current employees a "contri-butions holiday". Pensioners will get a "special increase" of £70 million, concentrated on the oldest pensioners and those on pensions of less than E5,000 a year. Out of the company's 43,000 pensioners, 38,000 will

benefit from extra money. But protesters are calling on the company to use part of the surplus to uprate their pension payments over the past four years by the maximum 3 per cent allowed by the Inland Revenue. So who actually owns the surplus and how can scheme members be sure they are being fairly treated? Here are some answers.

How do I find out if there is a surplus?

You should be able to A find out from the scheme accounts or actuarial reports. which you have a right to request under the new Pensions Act implemented last month. It will only be an issue if your scheme is based on your final salary because only in such schemes does your employer guarantee to pay you a certain level of pension. Any money left over after it has satisfied these guarantees will be surplus.

Who owns the surplus? Who owns the same Surely it belongs to the employees and pensioners who have contributed?

Not necessarily. The A company could equally well argue that it has a right to at least some of the money because it has probably con-tributed to it on your behalf. It also has a duty to put more money into the fund if there is the threat of a shortfall, so

share in the good times.

So what options does my employer have? Could be take the whole surplus leaving nothing for us?

Almost certainly not. What he can do depends on the terms of the scheme. Some only allow surpluses to be used for improving benefits for employees and pensioners.
Others allow the employer to use some of the fund to offser his costs in providing pen-

sions, or for other purposes. The new Pensions Act has strenghtened your hand. Now the trustees, who should act on your behalf as members, can override the scheme rules if they think it necessary to keep the scheme solvent. If the emplover wants to take a contributions holiday and the trustees think this will risk technical insolvency in future, for exampie, the trustees could act, says Mark Atkinson, of Cameron McKenna, the solicitors.

If your employer wants to take cash out of the scheme, the trustees must agree. They have to tell you and give you two months to respond before a second notice confirms what

Surely trustees should never agree to employers taking each out of funds?

In some cases, taking the cash would be the only way to avoid a hefty tax bill for your scheme. The Inland Revenue does not allow a scheme to have a surplus of more than 5 per cent over what it needs to meet its liabilities. The trustees may also be allowing the employer to do this as part of a deal to improve your pension.

able rate mortgages from different lenders are paying very different amounts for their loans, according to Moneyfacts, the monthly savings magazine. Over the 25-year period of the loan, those with the most expensive mortgages could end up paying up to £10,000 more than those with the

cheaper loans. The reason is that lenders now charge different variable rates of interest. At one time, all lenders had the same

Throughout the election campaign,

many, not the few. This slogan ranges from tax and education to sport. If it means anything, it should also favour

investors. By this time next week, unless voters or Tony Blair change their minds,

new Labour's Gordon Brown will sit behind a desk in Number II Downing

Street, not-so-new Labour's Margaret

Beckett will be sizing up the presidential

quarters at the Department of Trade

and Industry and investors will be

waiting to find out if it does.

the Labour Party has tried to push

one theme: it would govern for the

the cheapest variable rate loan is from the Yorkshire Building Society. The total amount d annually in interest on a £50,000 mortgage is £3,436.

Bingley charge 6.99 per cent. Bank of Ireland charges 7.49 per cent. Among the more expensive mortgages is a Bank of Ire-

loans are those offered by Holbeck, Leeds Birmingham Midshires and West Bromwich. The annual repayment on a £50,000 loan from the Half-

> would be £3,611, £175 a year more than the cheapest mort-gage. It charges 7.25 per cent.

fax, the UK's biggest lender,

variable rate loans, while Nationwide and Bradford &

CAROLINE MERRELL

Highs and lows on the mortgage front

standard variable rate. Now many of the mutual societies offer lower rates of interest of ioans as part of their mutual

benefit packages.

According to Moneyfacts, One of the most expensive

land variable rate loan, where the total annual amount paid

on a £50,000 loan is £3,769. Other cheaper loans include those offered by the Nationwide, where the annual repayments are £3,445, and the Bradford & Bingley, where the sum would be £3,553. Yorkshire charges interest of 6.94 per cent on its

The many, not the few John Redwood's idea. Once the Portillo tendency reached the Cabinet, it ignored two million small shareholders of British Gas, sequestered much of their business and rewrote the rules against what was left. Labour had an impeccable precedent for its utilities levy. Yet no tax could be more accurately targeted to hit small investors of modest means.

Worthy as the cause may be, the utility

levy will hit the many to help the few. Investors must hope that this levy, though a brainchild of Mr Brown, is a relic of 1992, not a portent of what else Labour has in mind. It may be inconvenient that most shareholders mainly hold shares in utilities, but the inconvenience is not unique. How whizzo it would be if small investors all backed new smaller companies. In reality, most hold stock in the largest, best-entrenched and therefore less than spotless corporations: oil majors, out-of-town shopping groups, drink and tobacco companies. Please remember. Mrs Beckett, these are the backbone of pension funds, unit trusts and small investors' portfolios,

not the few holding the many to ransom.

ust as important, please promote the interests of small investors, who fall foul of security industry economics and lose their voice and most of their rights in the process. Being the many, small investors need megaphones rather than muzzles so that they can pursue the interests of the many ~ perennially loyal, sometimes ethical, often long-term and very often green in the great private sector organisations



WEEKEND MONEY

is edited by Anne Ashworth

If you are in line for free conversion shares, either right away from Alliance & Leicester or later in the year from one of the other building societies, you have a number of options open to you. One of these, of course, is to keep the shares.

But then what's the best thing to do with them? To avoid paying tax on the returns you them? To avoid paying tax on the returns you could put them inside a Personal Equity Plan (PEP) within 42 days of receiving them.

You could do this with your building society. But, if you've been checking out the financial pages in the newspapers, you may well have been advised to choose a PEP specialist with genuine expenise and proven performance.

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The numbers, though not always accurate, are clear enough. Most people in work are members of a pension plan. Pension savers are the many not the few. Families that draw private pensions are increasingly also the many, not the few. long before Labour's proposed stake-holder sees the light of day. So please Mr Brown, if you are Chancellor, do not punish the many by cutting long-term pension returns to raise short-term cash. About three million people are thought to own trust units for simplicity and to spread risk. That is roughly three times the numbers in higher education. So please. Mr Brown, if you want to distinguish between short-term and long-term capital gains, do not make investment in unit and investment trusts more complex for the many. After pensions, personal equity plans have become the key vehicle for modest longterm savings. So please do not cut the

tax breaks that pay for the charges or impose needless new restrictions. For Labour, however, the biggest



cultural shock is to realise that private shareholders are also the many, not the few. About II million people own shares individually. Conversion of more building societies and the Norwich Union should swell this figure to at least 15 million, even if most of those who hang on own other shares of some kind.

The shareholder interest will be more than double the 6.8 million members of trade unions, three times the 4.2 million who work in manufacturing, energy and water put together.

Wider share ownership is here. Unless new Labour treats it as an aberration, it will not go away. For better or worse, most of the millions who bought privatised shares have stayed. In millions of cases, they have stayed for more than a decade, promoting the identity of interest once sought between ordinary people and great businesses. Many of those who will own shares in the Halifax

will keep them for a decade too. Sadly, the Tories did not stick to the Labour no longer seeks to own itself. We hope that you have been fortupate and have

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Marianne Curphey with a buyer's guide to rental properties

From location to letting.

country have seen a 5 per cent increase in house prices in the past three months, and uncertainty over how equities will perform after the election. an increasing number of people are looking to invest in bricks and mortar. The Institute of Chartered Surveyors reported last week that house price rises in London, the South East and West Midlands were driving a

Although the combination of low interest rates and high rental income may seem tempting for would-be landlords, there are income tax, capital gains tax and insurance implications to such a

mini-boom.

Property is a long-term investment - it is illiquid and you may not be able to sell up quickly if you need your capital back in a hurry. On the other hand, it has historically protected owners against some of the ravages of inflation on their savings.

The first step towards being a landlord is to decide whether you are investing for rental

income or capital growth. Yolande Barnes, director of research at Savilla, the estate agency, says those looking for maximum capital appreciation need to pick an area where there is strong growth in the local economy and wealth-creating industries.

She suggests Leeds, Bristol and Manchester, plus central London, but says the very top properties in these regions have already moved up in price considerably. "However, there is still

scope for the next rung down on the housing ladder." she says. "Demand for good quality detached houses and cottages is already growing. If you can be objective and buy in any area of the country, then pick regions like Glas-



This life's cast typify young professionals who need large rented properties

ingham and Manchester. where there is considerable local wealth.

"In London, look at houses around the £100,000 mark, within the M25 ring or near places like Guildford and Sevenoaks, where good quality family homes with three or four bedrooms and a garden are in demand."

She says that some properties will cover the cost of the mortgage, but will not command huge rents. However, the income will be realised when the property is sold several years later. One landlord who bought a house for an investment is Christopher Rolfe, 36, a surveyor from Lancashire, has just bought a two-bedroom house in Surrey

He said: "I have a house as part of my job and I was concerned that I might miss out on house price rises. I chose Surrey because I thought it would be easy to find tenants - and it was. Within two days of redecorating the house it was let."

He put down a £20,000 deposit and now pays a mortgage rate 2 per cent above the

standard variable rate charged by Homeloans Direct of Solihull, which last month became a financial services provider and changed its name to Paragon Mortgages. The mortgage interest payments, including an endowment policy, are £320 a month,

and he charges rent of £600. He said: "After lettings expenses, insurance and repairs to the house I will not make much profit from the rent. However, I hope to gain from the increase in house prices. I calculate prices have risen by

are looking purely for rental income, the criteria are very different. Ms Barnes says it is possible to buy cheap properties in areas where there is a high demand for rented property and which will yield the best rents.

Rudge Vale C

to unl

140

She suggests choosing property in university towns, near other academic institutions or

near a hospital. The Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) favours newly built properties for rental investment because of the low maintenance and

A buy-to-let scheme was launched last year by Arla, backed by the Halifax Building Society, Mortgage Express, Lloyds TSB and Homeloans Direct.

Before embarking on letting a property, it is wise to note the following points: Letting can go wrong and tenants who default can take

everything — including the central heating system when they disappear. Eviction can be lengthy and costly. Arrange for an assured short-hold tenancy. To get a mortgage for a second property to let you will

need a deposit of at least 25 per cent and the interest charged will be 0.5 per cent to 3 per cent above the lenders' standard variable rate.

Make sure utility bills are charged to clients.

Costs will include solicitors'. fees to arrange the tenancy, advertising for tenants and the managing agent's fee - typi-cally 10 to 15 per cent of the

Landlords who let out the whole property are not entitled to mortgage interest tax relief at source (Miras), although a number of costs, such as mortgage interest and agency fees, and the costs of being a landlord including stationery, telephone calls and redecorating, can be offset against tax.

You'd never have guessed that a low risk investment could be so exciting.

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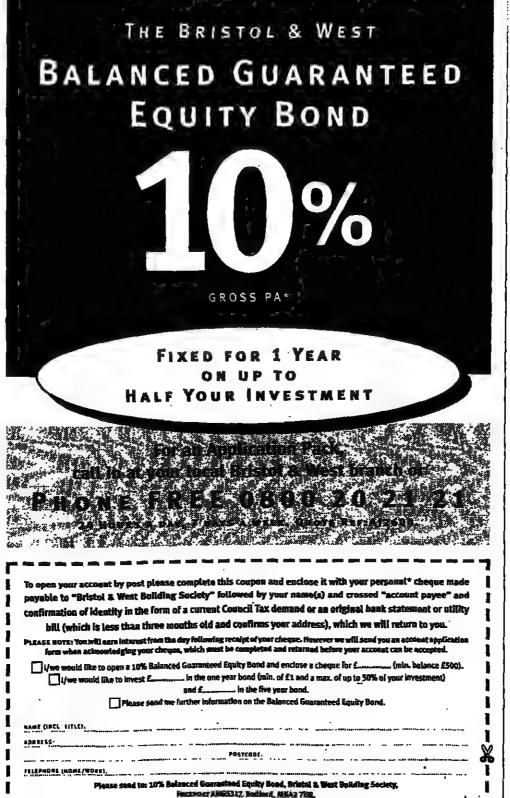
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Tax trap for the US-born

around 6 per cent since 1

housands of British residents born in America may unwittingly be building large debts in back taxes to the US Internal

Revenue Service (IRS). Dyke Davies, an American lawyer and partner in the London office of Brown and Wood, said: "The US imposes worldwide taxation on anyone who is a citizen or who of where they live and where

their money is earned. "In practice, most people who fall down on this obligation are green card holders who go abroad for a few years and are not informed at their local tax-return preparation shop that they should also be filing returns for the IRS. Then there are those US citizens who have never lived

born there when their parents were on an extended holiday." Traditionally, the IRS has

been merciful to unwitting offenders and, once they have come forward, asked them to file returns only for the three previous years. But the impression of tax specialists in London is that the IRS will no longer accept ignorance of the law as an excuse not to file.

born in Richmond, Virginia. and his British parents obtained a US passport for him when they were returning to England. At 19 he renewed his passport without being told of any tax liabilities. Only when he was transferred recently to the New York office of his London-based public relations company, did his accountant discover that he

returns to the IRS since he started work. But because he earned less than \$70,000 a year, Buchanan was eligible to apply for an exclusion. The exercise still cost him £3,000

It is not clear how closely the computer systems of the IRS and the US immigration authorities are linked. But the notion of British residents control over non-filing of tax returns is not too far-fetched. Stan Beesley, IRS represen-

tative in London, emphasised that most offenders earning less than \$70,000 per year would not be taxed twice. But legally they have to file to be eligible to daim exclusion. ☐ IRS. 24 Grosvenor Square, London: 0171-108-8076/77.

LOIS LETTS

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Performance left wanting at M&G

t the height of the Morgan Grenfell scandal, M&G feared that it would suffer by association, the two groups' initials being identical. Some anxiety was expres-sed that, for the uninitiated, only an ampersand separated the upstand-ing, utterly British Municipal and General from the louche goings on at

German-owned Morgan Grenfell.
As Morgan Grenfell begins to compensate its wronged investors (see page 40) it is now clear that M&G has its own problems. Nothing to do with fraud, but with a misguided at-

tachment to an investment strategy.

In the selection of shares for its funds, M&G has pursued "value" (see page 34). However, this policy has reduced the net worth of many of the clients. So noor has been the its clients. So poor has been the performance of many M&G trusts that some firms of independent financial advisers are now boycotting the group. Shamed at last into action,



ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

COMPETATION OF THE PROPERTY OF

M&G is now reshaping its trusts and will dispose of disappointing

But this long overdue reaction leaves several questions unanswered. Why did M&G launch a new fund, in March, instead of concentrating on improving its existing funds? Why did M&G continue to pursue the

value strategy when this was dearly

not in the interests of customers? How will it ensure that it achieves the

best possible price for the large stakes

more hire Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, to front the adver-tising campaign giving the answers?

Mutual friends

DETERMINEDLY mutual building societies claim that they will put customers first. The Halifax and the other converting societies make exactly the same promise. Potential borrowers, unconvinced by the claims of either side, will be interestit now means to sell? Will M&G once

(see page 29). The annual £50,000 loan repayment was the lowest at Yorkshire, Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley, all mutuality fans. But Cheltenham & Gloucester, a division of Lloyds, was also highly competi-tive. Meanwhile, West Bromwich and Birmingham Midshires, two more mutuality enthusiasts, were among the most expensive. The case for mutuality remains unproven.

Pension tension

FOUR out of ten working adults have no pension provision. Meanwhile, pension companies row over whose plan has the lowest cost (see page 40). The investment watchdogs should now set out clear guidelines on comparing charges that the novice can understand. Otherwise, pensions will continue to be too complicated for millions, leaving them con-

Conal Gregory on the rising market in political memorabilia

Election winners

s the election reaches its finale, some may be growing heartily sick of the faces of politicians. Others realise that images of those in government or aspiring to office can be tomorrow's antiques. The trade reports a rising market for political memorabilia, with the unusual and original most in de-mand. Sadly for Tony Blair and John Major, however, it is Baroness Thatcher items that are most popular.

Already a Baroness Thatcher teapot designed by the Spitting Image caricaturists Fluck and Law has jumped from £50-£80 two years ago to £200 plus today.

Collectors consider that the first election article was probably a stoneware jug, embossed TB 1705 with the arms of the City of Norwich. This was probably a reference to Thornas Blofield, who stood unsuccessfully at the hustings that year. A 1724 Delftware punch bowl, now in the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge, has inscribed in its cover. To the MP for Liverpool, Thomas

Political plates and mugs from the 18th century are keenly sought. The Worcester ceramics factory, later to become Royal Worcester, commemorated Robert Tracy's

five-day election was notably corrupt and, although Mr Tracy was bottom in the poll, he was vindicated when he petitioned Parliament. Mugs, printed in black, from the 1760s — depicting Pitt the Elder — sell for £1,700-£2,000. A pink lustre mug from the

1826 Northumberland election at Alnwick was £150 a decade ago. It shows one or more of the candidates. Today, you can expect to pay £500 according to Andrew Hilton, of Special Auction Services, based in Midgham Park, near Reading who holds regular sales of political memorabilia.

Fell plates depicting Charles James Fox, the Whig politician and noted orator are popular. Ten years ago a good example made £100, which has doubled today. Stoneware spirit flasks can be found depicting the leading parliamentary figures of the 1832 Reform Bill. Charles Grey makes £300, and Daniel O'Connell £400.

Engraved glassware can occasionally be found. Presumably as an electoral bribe, one of the Reading candidates had "Success to Sir Francis Knollys 1761" inscribed on to a goblet with ogee bowl and conical foot. He was elected but never spoke in Parliament. The glass makes £2,000 plus.

don glass dealer, recently sold a facet-stem glass commemo-rating John Wilkes, the 18th century libertarian MP. It showed an engraved bird flying out of a cage, referring to Mr Wilkes's expulsion from the Commons, and the phrase "Wilkes & Liberty" on the reverse. It had risen from £900-£1,000 in 1992 to £1,500. Disraeli and Gladstone appeared in many guises. Octagonal plates printed by Wallis Gimson at £30-£40 each in 1986 now fetch £60-£90.

ne of the most abusive examples is the chamber pot from Belleek, a china factory in Northern Ireland, which has a portrait of Gladstone printed in black on the inside, designed because Gladstone championed Irish Home Rule. Phillips sold one two years ago at £276. Many such articles are recorded by Sir Lincoln Halli-nan in his well-illustrated British Commemoratives (Antique

Collectors' Club, £29.95). Lloyd George can be found as a tumbling figure — a wind up clock work toy — symbolising his political somersaulting. In good condition such a piece has risen from £50-£75 in 1987 to £200 now.

Churchill material is far

toby jugs of Kennedy, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Washington graph of him made £420 plus buyer's premium a year ago at Christie's South Kensington. each at £60. Memorabilia from this elec-Signed political photographs are offered by Politico's, Britrion will also attract high prices in future, he said. "Posters such ain's first bookshop specialis-

£59 Kissinger, £95 Gerald Ford and Oliver North, £119 Wilson, and £495 for Reagan. Thatcher commemoratives are tipped by Politico's manag-ing director lain Dale. He offers the Royal Doulton 312 inch plate of Margaret Thatcher for £35. Other Royal Doulton material includes

ing in political memorabilia. It

quotes £55 for Helmut Kahl,

as the one portraying Tony Blair on Chancellor Kohl's knee will be very marketable. and anything to do with Mar-tin Bell should be worth keeping. The parties' manifestos will be like gold dust in a lew years. The post-election Times Guide to the House of Commons is already in demand. and political mugs, beer bottles and badges will all be very

collectable."

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Caroline Merrell on a fund manager's search for better value



Front man: Lord Lawson of Blaby, who starred in the series of television advertisements for M&G Peps that failed to bring in the business

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M&G gears up for radical changes

known management companies, is taking radical steps to try to improve the investment performance on its UK funds.

As revealed this week by The Times, the fund manager - which has more than 700,000 client accounts and £16 billion under management - is planning a shift in its investment strategy. The move is to counteract increasingly severe criticism from independent financial advisers, which are the source of half of its new

follows a million-pound television advertising campaign for M&G Peps fronted by Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was significantly unsuccessful, attracting just £20 million for a new fund, one tenth of the average amount drawn in by previous M&G fund launches.

The change in the company's stance comes at the end of a year in which the fund manager's executives can begin to cash in share options, which could be worth more than £40 million in total over

ten years. Vivian Bazaigette, manag-

ing director of M&G investment management, said that it had reviewed all 280 stocks held by M&G in its funds to see whether they fitted ten different investment criteria. He said that the company was planning to dispose of a number of holdings that did not meet the criteria. He refused to be drawn on which shares it planned to sell. He also said: We are looking at the possibility of rationalising some of

the funds by merging them Until recently M&G funds were considered to be a safe haven for investors' money. As one financial adviser but it, the performance of the funds, while not likely "to shoot the lights out" was also not likely

to disappoint too much. Over the past few years. however, the performance of some of M&G's most popular funds has slipped to the point that many of the UK's biggest independent financial advisers have simply stopped recommending any of the company's trusts.

Some are even threatening to remove their clients' money altogether. For example M&G's Midland & General fund is the worst-performing fund in its sector over three

is 125th out of 135 funds in its sector over three years. The company claims that its more recent performance had improved and that some of its funds were the top of its sector (see table). In the first three months of the year, traditionally the busiest time for the investment companies, M&G took only £150 million into its personal equity plans (Peps), half the amount taken over the same period in the previous year. The amount taken was in spite of the £9 million spent annually on advertising.

J Chase de Vere, the vestment director of independent financial adviser, was particularly disappointed at M&G's decision to launch an investment trust this year. He said: "With nearly all investment trusts trading at a discount to asset value, it is difficult to see why they launched this." If an investment trust falls to a discount, then shareholders can only sell shares at a price that is less

than their true value. He and others also accused the company of being too complacent as it did not respond to its problems with

enough speed. Michael McLintock, M&G's group managing director, admitted investment style had been too dominated by manufacturing stocks, which meant that at cycle, all their funds underperformed substantially. He said: "Too many of our funds are much too similar."

the "value" method of picking stocks. This means that higher yielding shares are chosen over growth stocks. Over the last year in particular the higher income-bearing stocks have underperformed those shares geared up for growth. Mr McLintock claims that M&G is not going to move away from its traditional "value" approach to fund management but says that it is going to have a more "disciplined" approach. "There is going to

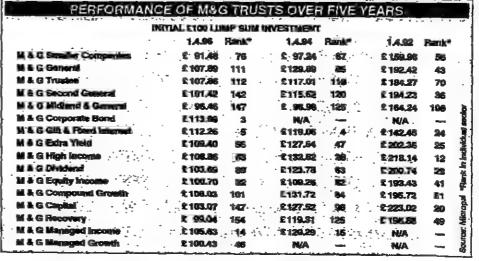
funds and with a greater choice of risk," he says. Peter Jeffries, director of Fund Research, which analyses fund managers, said: There is nothing wrong with the value approach. What appears to have gone wrong at M&G is that during periods of a value-driven market their portfolios have all looked the same. All their growth portfolios had to produce a dividend. while all their income portiolios had to produce some growth. There was too much

be bigger differences between

overlap." He added: "As long as they can build on the quality management, things could getbetter."

Despite the problems faced by the M&G its share price has rocketed ahead. It is now trading on 20 times earning. it, along, with many other fund managers are the subject of bid speculation.

Those with shares in M&G have fared much better than many those who bought its





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Service pension rules add to widow's distress



Pension plight: Jane Burrows with her son, Mark, and a portrait of her late husband, Stephen

Weekend Money re-port on the plight of Armed Forces widows' receiving meagre pensions has brought a large response both from the women affected by the rules and from military and naval men. All added their voices to the rising tide of discontent over the treatment of these widows, especially those whose husbands left the services before 1973. There is particular concern that widows have their pensions taken away if they remarry, even though their deceased husband's salaries were reduced provide pensions for

 $\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{0}}$

dependants. Jane Burrows, 32 whose husband was killed by a terrorist bomb seven years ago, said that pension rules not only penalised her for wanting a "normal" family life but could cause hardship. She was refused a loan on the grounds that her war widow's

pension was not paid for life. Her husband, Lance Corporal Stephen Burrows, was killed by a 2,000lb IRA bomb at an Army checkpoint in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in October 1990. Mrs Burrows was moved immediately to an army camp in England but was warned that within six months she must find her own accommodation.

"I didn't know a soul. The camp was three miles from the city centre so I tried to buy a car but the finance company turned me down on the grounds that my pension was not paid for life. If my father hadn't stood as guarantor I wouldn't have been able to buy it," Mrs Burrows said.

As highlighted recently in Coronation Street, a war widow forfeits her Department of Social Security and Forces Family pensions if she remarries or lives with a man as husband and wife.

Jenny Grove on

the rising tide of

discontent over

unequal treatment of retired Armed

Forces personnel

Mrs Burrows said that difficulty in getting loans and mortgages undermined a war widow's independence when she was at her most vulnerable. "I had six months in which to decide where to live, whether to rent or buy and where my son was going to go insult to an already considerable injury. I think a war widow should keep her husband's occupational pension

for life," she said. Successive governments have resisted such pleas on the grounds that military pensions are non-contributory. But campaigners are quick to point out that when salaries are determined by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body they are "abated" — this year by 7 per cent - to reflect the value of the pension.

Sir Michael Bett, the Civil Service Commissioner and former deputy chairman of BT who carried out an independent review of the Armed Forces remuneration at the Ministry of Defence's request, recommended in 1995 that "in line with private sector practice a wid-

ow's or widower's pension should be payable for life". But in the public sector, the ban on remarriage remains. Widows of policemen and firemen also forfeit their pension if they remarry or live with their partners.

Mrs Betty Ives, 72, is in a different predicament. Her

husband, Major Desmond lves, received an artificially depressed pension because his military career ended in 1977 during a period of government pay restraint. "He received less than those of conivalent rank and length of ervice who retired before him." she pointed out.

When Major Ives died 12 years ago, Mrs Ives's pension one half of her husband's was correspondingly reduced. "My husband was in the Army for 39 years. It is a poor reward after a lifetime's service to one's country," she said.

In 1977 about 48,000 people retired from the Forces. Those that were eligible for pensions received less than average freeze" had led to limited increases in military salaries. By contrast that year the pensions of those who had already retired rocketed by 17.7 per cent — in line with the retail prices index.

The effect of the so-called pension "trough" year of 1977 is compounded.

retired in 1977 has now recrived about £55,480 less than his more fortunate colleague. Meanwhile, the 54,000-strong Officers' Pensions Society is fighting for reform. "Servicemen who retire in a pension trough year - such as 1977 received exaggeratedly reduced pensions. It is grossly unfair because they have no control over the date at which their careers come to an end," Major-General Peter Bonnet, general secretary of the society, said. "The Government has ignored the long term implications."



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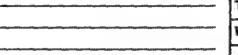


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A major who retired in 1977 after 34 years' service now gets a pension of just under £12,000 a year, compared with £15,900 a year for his equivalent who retired in 1975.

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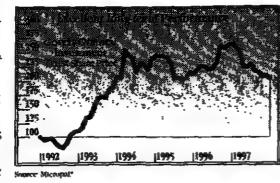
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ORIENTAL

Lizanne Rose reports on the iniquities of windfall allocations

Let down in payout

& Leicester shares this week has reminded thousands of young savers that they are a poor second best in the £22 billion building society windfall bonanza. Instead of shares, investors who are under 18 receive the statutory cash bonus, regardless of how long they have saved with the society and however large their balances. Among those who feel most aggrieved are those who feel that the societies solicited their custom with cheap incentives of T-shirts and baseball caps.

The value of these bonuses is far below the average windfall now being pocketed by adult investors with as little as \$100 in their accounts. A 19-year old saver with £100 in an Alliance & Leicester account fortunate enough to have sold his 250

The strong performance of Alliance Alliance & Leicester shares at this week's top price of 576p would have received El.440. Even those who opted to sell in the auction would have been £1,334 richer (see page 37). A 17-year old Alliance & Leicester saver with the same balance would now be looking at a pairry fill.

The law is to blame for this discrimination against young savers. Those under 18 are not classified as members of societies. This means that they cannot vote at the meetings called to approve the change of status from society to bank and so may not benefit from payouts. However, individual societies are free to set the level of statutory cash bonuses and most have erred on the side of meanness. The low level of the statutory cash bonus has been the subject of many letters to Weekend

Money from parents who feel that societies are discouraging thrift among children. Here are the age rules for the

different society windfalls: ■ Halifax — cash bonus is 9.4 per cent of total balance on December 31, 1996. Investors had to be 18 years old by February 24 1997, to qualify for shares.

Alliance & Leicester - cash bonus is] per cent of total balance on October 14; 1996. Investors had to be 18 by December 10. 1996, to qualify for shares. ■ Woolwich — cash bonus is 10 per cent

of balance on December 31, 1996, Inves-

tors had to be 18 on February 11, 1997, to qualify for the shares. ■ Northern Rock — cash bonus is 8.8 per cent of the total balance on December 31; 1996. Age limit of 18 on April 15, 1997.



Northern Rock solid over age bar for shareout

Viare McLachlan, 15. from Weston-super-Mare stands to gain only £68 while her older sister, Caroline, will receive the full share issue in the Northern Rock flotation. worth an estimated £1.400.

In February 1993, Clare and Caroline opened a joint account which was split into two separate accounts when Caroline turned 16 in 1995. Caroline, now 18 and studying for her A-levels, received confirmation that she would be given shares in the forthcoming Northern Rock

Another letter followed in the post for younger sister Clare who was informed



"Why should I have less

members, employees and the society as a whole," a spokes-

over on April 15, 1997. Clare's father. Don, a computer

that, despite having an account balance of £770, she from a fairer shareout. The Northern Rock said that would only be given a statunothing could be done: "While I can appreciate the disqualified from receiving disappointment, the board of shares because of her age. the society has concluded The rules outlined in the that the conversion propostransfer document state that als and the scheme for the sole or first-named investing distribution of free shares members must be aged 18 or are in the best interests of

software business manager. man said. complained to the Northern Mr McLachian remains unconvinced that this deci-Rock, arguing that there was sion is in the best interest of absolutely no reason why minors could not have rethe society or his daughter. ceived a more equitable dis-Clare still feels she has been very badly treated by tribution and that the the Northern Rock which, requirement to pay statutory cash bonuses do not of she says, should have made themselves restrict societies a fair provision for minors:

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than my sister - we've both had our money with the society for the same period of

Northern Rock insisted that there had to be a cut-off

"It is inevitable that many members will be disappointed, not just children. We do sympathise and many of Northern Rock's own employees have families that are losing out. But just as children could complain that it is unfair that they can't vote in the general election. likewise it is inevitable that they will complain that they can't vote in building society

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ALL CHANGE OR NO CHANGE?

One of the questions most asked by voters at a general election is "how will the result affect me financially and what actions

should I be taking?". In 1997 the need for advice and information is more important than ever. The reason for this is that both of the main political parties are committed to bringing Britain's Welfare bill under control. They realise the best way to achieve this is to persuade you to protect your own financial future, with a variety of insurance and investment schemes. If we look at the most publicised welfare benefit - the state pension it is clear that its value has fallen in recent years. This is because the state pension is linked to the Retail Price Index and not average earnings which over time have outstripped the rise in prices. This pattern of gradual erosion of value over time is true for other state provided benefits - invalidity, care in old age, and so on - and it is a trend that is unlikely to be reversed. The fact is, the world has changed. As well as reductions in the welfare state, gone are the days when

people worked for the same

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pension to supplement their state pension, and covered by generous employer provisions for ill-health or

HEW SOLUTIONS FOR A NEW ERA

Most people agree that we need to save for our own retirement. Compulsory pension schemes for people starting to work, for the first time, may well soon become a reality. But what will happen if you've been working for years

These days a "job for life" is a thing of the past. Short-term work contracts and flexible working practices have put paid to real job security. Many people in their late 40s and early 50s are being forced into early retirement or having to accept lower paid employment. This, combined with an ever ageing population has caused what some analysts are calling a 'crisis in

capitalism" - where the state cannot keep the promises it has made in

THE NEED FOR PERSONAL PROVISION As State and employer provision changes, there are an increasing number of areas where the need to provide for yourself financially is paramount. For example, if you were to die, the state is unlikely to provide enough for your family to live on. One adult and two children would currently receive a total of £38.79 per week before any income support, against the average family income of £406.

An incapacitating illness or injury can also mean financial hardship. At the moment you would only get £46.15 a week as state benefit. Of course, It's easy to imagine that it couldn't be you. The fact is, one person in six, in the UK, will develop a lifethreatening illness at some point in Around 30% of all people will

require some form of long-term care before they die. Most of these individuals will be forced to self their homes to fund their care costs. This can't be right after a lifetime's hard work. Personal insurance schemes are now available in the UK to meet these long-term care costs, but only around 17,000 policies have been

if all of this sounds rather depressing. it doesn't have to be. There is a lot of good news too. The cost of many basic health and life insurances are surprisingly low and pensions represent a very attractive way of building significant investments ~ totally free of tax. So sound financial planning has very clear benefits and makes sense for everybody.

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As withings of investment awards, us

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PLAN AHEAD Although financial planning is vitally important, it is unfortunately easily overlooked. Protection nurselyes in the event of unforeseen discumstances. saving for retirement or whatever other provision we know we need to make, simply takes a low priority in Our busy lives.

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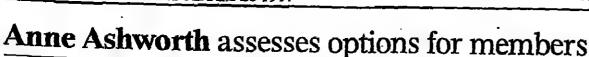
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It's all over now: Jon Foulds, left, the Halifax chairman, and Mike Blackburn, chief executive, after the last AGM as a society

Halifax hopes high

The stampede to acquire Alliance & Leicester shares (see below) may discourage some Halifax investors from selling their holdings at the first opportunity before the official start of

An auction of Halifax shares will be held on Friday, May 30, before trading begins in earnest on the conversion day, June 2, when the Halifax embarks on its new destiny as a bank. Millions will seize this first chance to cash in their long-awaited windfalls.

But although customers can sell commission-free for the first ten days using a special Halifax service, a few more sophisticated investors seem likely to bypass this system and request share certificates. They will then use other stockbrokers to seil their shares, in the hope of a higher price.

Whichever method is used, customers seem, at present, to be sure of a larger than expected cheque. In January the value of the average windfall (a parcel of some 307 in the £12 billion Halifax flotation was calculated to be £1,290, based on an

4.

estimated mid-price of 420p. The average windfall could be at least £1,400, on the 458p price anticipated by banking analysts such as James Johnson at Credit Lyonnais Laing. Others speculate that it could rise to 553p, giving a windfall of £1,700.

However, these figures could be misleading, accord-ing to Gary Marsh, Halifax head of corporate affairs. He said 300 shares is an atypical distribution: "A more typical customer would be entitled to two basic distributions of 200 shares, one as a saver and another as a borrower." At 458p, worth £1,832.

The basic distribution is given to those qualifying savers who have less than £1,000 invested. Savers with more than El,000 are entitled to a variable distribution of extra shares. The optimistic figures for the opening share price assume that the stock market remains buoyant after the election. But if the index tumbles, Halifax has put in place a safety net for those who opt to sell immediately.

Next Monday Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the Halifax's advisers, will publish a Any of the 7.6 million beneficiaries who notify the Halifax by May 26 that they wish to dispose of their holdings before or on the day of conversion will not have their shares sold below this price.

Those whose holdings are sold off in the first auction on May 30 will be able to withdraw the cash from their Halifax accounts on Friday, June 6. There will be subsequent auctions during the first week of dealings for those who miss the May 26 deadline.

Special forms now going out to customers allow them to sell or keep their shares. To ensure that you receive your shares, you must complete either Form A or Form B. Fill in Form B if you wish to sell immediately through the commission-free service.

Choose Form A if you wish to have a share certificate, or if you want your shares held in the Shareholder Account, or you want to put your shares into a Halifax single company personal equity plan (Pep). Choose the Shareholder Account if you want freedom from paperwork. If, subse-



part of your stake, you can. You can also add to your

If you want to retain your shares, take a share certificate. You can transfer your shares into the Pep for free. Only do this if you are, or will soon be, a higher-rate taxpay-er, otherwise the annual charge could be the tax saving on your dividend. A £50 exit fee applies until April 1998. The Halifax is launching a new 60-Day Gold Account in May and is increasing the rates on Halifax Gold. Rates on 60-Day Gold (minimum investment £5,000) will range from 4.25 to 6 per cent on £100,000 or more. Bonus Gold (minimum £10,000) will pay

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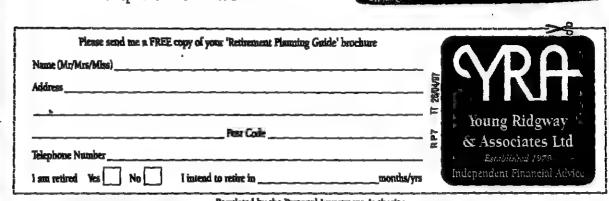
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hareholders in the Alliance & many analysts and brokers. BZW recom- than E25,000 invested with the Alliance & trading. Many who sold their shares straight away through the free dealing service offered by the A&L will have received less than those selling on the open market, even when brokers' commission is taken into account.

The 27 per cent of shareholders who used the free dealing service will get £1,334 on the settlement day, April 28, while those who sold on the first day, when, for example, the shares were at 570p, would have made £1.405, assuming a commission of £20. Those who sold yesterday made £1.365, assuming a price of 554p.

The high price of the A&L surprised

Leicester says their shares sour to mended buying the shares up to 520p — Leicester over a period of six years. As a an initial high of 576p and then the maximum price many expected them vicar, and therefore, an ex-officio trustee was sent to members last October, the price was expected to peak at 485p. Analysts believe that the unexpectedly high share price was generated by high demand from retail investors. Although some think that there might still be a bid for the company, which could push the price to 650p, a predator would have to convince 75 per cent of shareholders for the society's five-year protection from takeover to be lifted.

Among those missing out on the windfall is Rev Brian Mountford, from the University Church of St Mary in Oxford. He said: "My church has had more

our account. I also had a personal account. So I am excluded from the payout - this seems incredibly unjust."

The Skipton Building Society, which offers a telephone share dealing service. poured scorn on the treatment for A&L customers selling on day one. It said: "They indicated that they wished to sell on day one, but received a three-day average. Those who sold through Skipton's Dealwise had an average price of 561p on day one, or 555p after expenses a considerable difference."

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Matthew Wall on why a 'boom-bust' cycle is feared

Politics a sideshow



Boos and mudslinging: the election campaign has become more robust in the past week

ith five days to go before election day the campaign is close to boiling point. But while the politicians frenziedly hurl mud and promises in equal measure, the markets look on with only mild curiosity.

As ever, it is the Wall Street

show that draws the crowds. And with the Dow Jones industrial average soaring 173 points on Wednesday, its second-highest gain on record, it is easy to see why.

Inspired by the Dow's breath taking acrobatics, the FT-SE 100 accelerated its steady recovery before finishing the week 18.8 points down at 4.369.7. Not much sign of pre-election nerves there. The only tinge of alarm holding back further growth is the fear of a hung Parliament. If there is one thing the markets hate more than uncertainty, it is stagnation.

Darren Winder, chief econo-

merchant bank, says: "It is ironic that the next US employment figure due out on May 2 is likely to overshadow the election result completely. If it shows strong growth, US interest rates will almost certainly rise again on May 20 research at NatWest Stockbroand this could have an unset-

the political parties seem obsessed with promising to reduce personal taxation, many City economists actually want tax increases. As Mr Winder says: "The last thing the City wants is a repeat of the boombust' cycle of the late Eighties, so we think a tightening of fiscal rather than monetary policy is desirable."

tling effect on the markets." Another irony is that while

income tax accounts for less than a quarter of the Government's income, so if Gordan Brown becomes the next Chancellor there are plenty of other ways he can raise taxes. Restricting or scrapping tax re-

THE MARKET liefs is an obvious option, as is cutting capital allowances for businesses and tinkering with personal allowances. Scrapping mortgage interest relief could also help to keep house price inflation under control. Jeremy Baistone, head of

kers, says: "One thing investors can be certain of under a Labour Government is that consumers will take precedence over shareholders. The market is likely to stay volatile for some time to come But Mark Miller, UK economist at Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, said: "We still think equities will outper-form gilts this year and that

the FT-SE 100 will reach 4.500. There is a risk that Labour will reduce the tax credit on dividends, which would be bad news for pension funds, but such changes are unlikely to take hold until next year."

AND THE FI FCTION

stock market fall, however short-lived. But this has not stopped some market-makers deciding to open all night on Thursday in the hope of mak-. ing a turn should the election deliver a surprise, as it did in 1992. And NatWest Stockbrokers has also decided to burn the midnight oil on electionnight in readiness for its

Colonial flotation conundrum

embers of Colonial, the demut-ualised Australian financial services group, have six days— until May 2— to decide if they want to keep or sell their windfall shares. The shareholder statements will be sent out at the end of May after the official listing on

However, Colonial's flotation on the Australian stock market leaves 255,000 policyholders in the United Kingdom, who are entitled to a share handout worth an average £1,300, with an unusually difficult problem. The beneficiaries of other demutualisations, like that of Alliance & Leicester, which floated on Monday, have simply to decide whether they should sell their shares immediately or wait to see if the price rises after flotation. Some have made an extra £200 or more by waiting before they sold in the open market, rather than relying on the price achieved in three institutional auctions this week.

But Colonial members, who have just

learnt that they would receive an average 1,000 shares each, will also have to take into account the sterling/Australian dollar exchange rate and the cost of selling on the Australian market. Those who choose to sell as part of the flotation offer will avoid broker charges, but lose out to sterling's current high exchange rate.

The price of the shares, to be determined by the offer process, will be converted into sterling for UK policyholders at the rate applicable on May 16. On the other hand, those choosing to hold on to their shares in the hope that the price will rise when trading starts, or that sterling may fall after the general election, will have to pay a broker or New Zealand market.

One further complication is Colonial's decision to include an option handout. which will allow those who hang on to their shares to buy further Colonial shares at a 15 per cent discount sometime before June 1998. The company

demutualised in December, but it has only just put a value on its shares. Under the terms of the distribution, 10 per cent of members will get a minimum of 225 shares worth £290, although there will be no upper limit.

Brewin Dolphin (017) 248 4400) Is offering an execution-only service after listing. David Fiddes, a BD broker specialising in Australian equities, said members who decide not to sell immediately via Colonial's own service needed to wait for the shareholder statement before they could self through BD.

BD charges 1.95 per cent commission for selling with a minimum charge of £30, plus a £10 contract fee and 0.5 per has an arrangement with Societé Générale Strauss Turnbull, the marketmaker that will set a price in sterling. Colonial helpline (0345 697 502).

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Advantages

Nathan Yates sees both sides of Pep mortgages



Should she or shouldn't she? Pep mortgages are not always the answer for buyers seeking a loan for a new home

All right for some

ersonal equity plan (Pep) mortgages are the latest craze on the mortgage market. A TV advertising campaign by NatWest Bank claims a Pep mortgage is the perfect choice for its heroine. Pep mortgages have also replaced endowments as the flagship product of Halifax Building Society, Britain's biggest lender. For new homebuyers, whether the marketing hyperbole on Pep mortgages is backed by real benefits is an urgent question. The answer is a very qualified "yes".

Advantages

With a traditional repayment mortgage you pay interest plus a proportion of the original sum borrowed each month but with a Pep mortgage you pay only the interest on the loan. The money saved is used to buy Peps, tax-efficient vehicles for buying unit or investment trusts. There are other interestonly mortgages such as endowment or pension schemes but the potentially higher rate of return that can be provided by Peps could make this interest-only product the most effective cost-cutter.

Research by the Association of Unit Trusts and investment Funds, the unit trusts body, shows that £50 per month invested over the past 25 years in the average Peppable unit trust would now be worth £210,303. This is more than double the gain on the average with-profits endowment, which would now be worth just £96,468. On this record, you are more likely to pay off your mortgage quickly with a Pep mortgage than with an endowment.

The tax treatment of Peps and endowments are also entirely different. Peps are free from capital gains tax and income tax.
If endowments are held for more than 10

stment

sum. Pep mortgages offer greater flexibility than endowments. You can invest up to f9,000 per year into a Pep, and a Pep mort-gage offers freedom within that limit partic-ularly if you choose one that is "unpackaged," or not directly controlled by the lender.

If you want to entrust your Pep allowance to different fund managers each year you are free to do so, and you would be well advised to spread your portfolio. This will reduce your exposure to risk if one of your funds performs badly. You are also allowed to contribute more to your Pep mortgage one year and less the next. Payments can also be stopped and restarted.

The flexibility and high returns of Peps mean they are hard to beat as repayment vehicles, said NatWest's Keith Scott. "Pep mortgages are not suitable for everyone, but if you have not used your full Pep allowance it is difficult to see a situation in which you would recommend an endowment over a

Disadvantages

There are potential pitfalls with a Pep mort-gage. One of biggest drawbacks is that, un-like an endowment, you can dip in to your Pep before you have paid off your mortgage. If you suddenly run short of money to pay school fees or other large debts, you may not be disciplined enough to leave your Pep plans untouched, which could leave you short of money when it comes to paying off the loan. Another drawback is the need to pay extra life cover which will repay the loanb in the event of death.

The mass sale of interest-only endowment mortgages in the 1980s helped to create the negative equity disaster. More than four in five mortgages sold then were endowments. fered the same prospect of surplus bonuses as Pep mortgage buyers are today. How-ever, some endowments underperformed. and many borrowers have had to pay extra premiums to make sure they get an adequate final sum. But the risks that Peps will fail to repay loans are much less because the administrative and commission charges deducted from plans are insignificant compared with the charges on endowments.

Peps were introduced as a rax incentive to investors by Nigel Lawson, the Conservative Chancellor, and future governments may revoke his provision. Because a Pep must be bought under a new contract each year, it is more vulnerable to a change in policy than more permanent endowment deals, though none of the main parties plans to end them.

Pep mortgages also face the claim that they are higher risk than endowments because they involve direct investment in equities which can fall in value, particularly if there is a stock market slump. In addition, if you have a Pep mortgage and lose your job it is likely that you would be disqualified from help with repayments from the Department of Social Security. The DSS only rives assistance to those with less than £8,000 capital, and your Pep would probably exceed this limit.

Conclusion

Pep mortgages offer a mixture of risks and gains. Choosing whether to take one depends on your circumstances, said Patrick Bunton of London and Country Mortgages They are best suited to higher earners who are not as exposed to the risks," he said.

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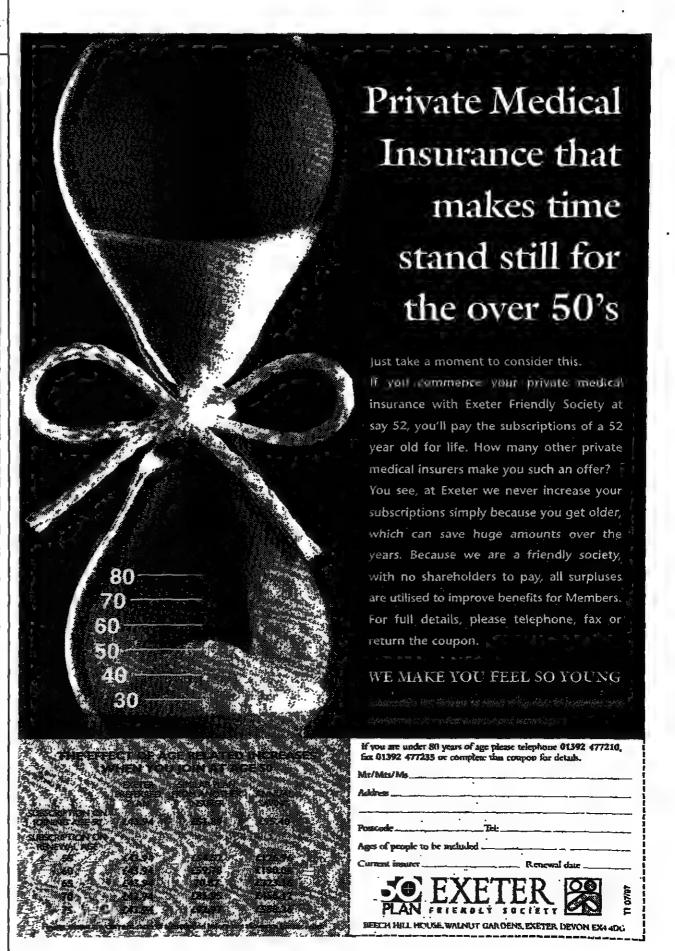
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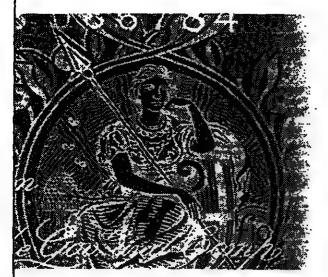
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Curphey on the end

of a hard few months for

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Grenfell

total of 80,000 investors in Morgan Grenfell who lost money in the wake of the Peter Young affair will discover on Tuesday how much they will receive in

They are the individual account-holders whom Morgan Grenfell has been able to compensate quickly. However, there are a futher 100,000 people whose funds are held in 250 nominee accounts. These include people who have bought trusts via managers such as Skandia, which has 45,000 Morgan Grenfell European investors, Aegon, and Tower Trust of New Zealand.

These account-holders will have to wait until Morgan Grenfell has completed negotiations with the managers. which could take several months. The reason for the delay, says Frances Davies. head of pooled funds at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. is because each investor's compensation is individually assessed, and managers need to provide very detailed data.

"We have our own records which have already been checked and verified, but we need the same from the other managers. If the delay be-comes too long, we will just work out compensation based on the records we do hold and the managers can divide the cheque up themselves between

Peter Young, who was the subject of an official investigation by Imro, the City regulator, had been regarded as the most successful European fund manager in the unit trust er model to work out individ-



Peter Young was investigated by Imro



Nicola Horlick was the subject of suspension

business, with a noted long-term performance track record. The focus of the invesnigation was irregularities on unquoted securities held by the three European funds he managed

The official investigation and compensation is thought to have cost Morgan Grenfell's parent. Deutsche Bank of Germany, around £430 million. This includes an immediate payment of £180 million in cash which Deutsche Bank put into the European funds to support them when the Peter Young affair was discovered.

The bill also includes legal fees, the cost of advisers and the extra burden of funding the official investigation. A team of 100 specialists from Ernst & Young have been assessing the compensation. and creating a unique comput-

ual compensation packages. A further 100 accountants from Arthur Andersen have been shadowing the exercise and reporting findings to Imro.

Shares in the three funds managed by Peter Young were suspended on September 2, 3 and 4, 1990, and relisted on September 5. In the interim. Deutsche Bank had replaced the unlisted securities with £180 million in cash.

Around 30 per cent of investors left the fund within the next lew weeks.

Ms Davies said yesterday:
"We established August 1. 1995, as the first date from which prices were affected by Peter Young's irregularities."

She said an investor who had bought £6,000 worth of Furnness Growth Trust Income units in March 1996 and held them until September would have lost £1,047. However, since the compensation payable of £955 based on the index performance still did not restore the fund to the original capital invested, Morgan Grenfell is paying an extra £92 to make up the difference, plus E40 for the delay, based on a 6. per cent interest rate.

In putting together an index to calcuate compensation for investors. Morgan Grenfell compared 80 funds for the European Growth trust and European Capital Growth, and ten for Europa.

The eight months have been difficult ones for Morgan Grenfell. While still recovering from the blow dealt by Peter Young, it faced the row over Nicola Horlick, the "superwoman" pension fund manager, who was suspended in January amid allegations that she was about to defect to-

L&G joins the direct pensions club

egal & General is to start selling because the provider does not give personal pensions over the teleinto direct competition with such household names as Virgin and Marks & Spencer. But this week the company was unable to explain why its plan would apparently produce a higher return than that of its nearest rival on price. Flemings, when the charges on the L&G

pension are higher.

This underlines the often opaque structure of pension charges, which have come under fierce attack from consumer groups and MPs. Pensions designed to be sold over the telephone are meant to be simple for investors to understand

L&G says that someone putting £100 a month into its plan over 20 years would end up with a fund of £95.200. In L&G's comparative chart, the same amount saved in a Flemings pension would

But according to L&G's figures, supplied by Flemings, L&G levies an upfront charge of 3 per cent, a monthly plan fee of £1.50 and an annual

management charge of 0.5 per cent.

By contrast, Fiemings charges an upfront fee of just 0.5 per cent, no plan fee and an annual management charge of 0.5

investments of more than £10,000. Adrian Boulding, L&G's pensions director, could NOT EXPLAIN WAY FLEMINGS, TOWER CHAI resulted in a lower estimated final fund. Ian Overgage, Flemings' marketing manager, confirmed L&G's figures for Flemings were correct but could not shed any light on the apparent discrepancy.

The new L&G pensions will be cheaper than those sold through its own salesmen or via independent financial advisers because customers will not pay the sales-man's commission. L&G staff will not be licensed for customer-specific advice.

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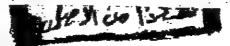
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Raiders sail in as investment trusts hit the doldrums

nvestment trusts are in the popularity doldrums.
Shunned by institutional and private buyers alike, they have now slumped to their lowest price relative to the FT-

SE 100 in four years.

A report, to be published next week by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, claims that the whole investment company sector could be "sliding into relative obscurity."
With news like this, inves-

tors are unlikely to embark on a trust-buying spree. But behind the adverse publicity, a dispute is raging among analysts. Some agree that investment trusts are in trouble; others say that this sector is now offering its biggest

According to Credit Lyonnais Laing, the investment trust market is burdened by an oversupply of shares, particularly in the large generalist trusts. And fund managers have developed a habit of launching new trusts each time prices improve. However, this surplus in itself could be a bonus for investors.

investment trust prices are determined by the demand for shares, rather than the perfor-mance of funds as with unit trusts, which are priced by dividing the value of the fund by the number of units issued.

When investment trust supply exceeds demand, shares are sold at a discount to their value as a proportion of the company's assets (known as net asset value). Since 1994, oversupply has meant that the average discount has more than doubled from 4 per cent to 11 per cent.

This increase in discounting across the entire sector means that with high quality trusts there is now a disproportionate gap between performance and popular appeal, according to John Korwin-Szyminowski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg.

Discounts are generally used to reflect the quality of the funds concerned, but we are now seeing traditionally premium-rated stocks at discount

ns clui

Nathan Yates on

whether this is winding-up time

for some trusts.

or a chance for bargain hunters

quality very cheaply, and investors should take advantage quickly because this situation will not last."

investors who succeed in selecting cheap top performing funds could reap the investment trust "double whammy" of solid long-term returns plus a short-term profit if the discount narrows and

Research month by HSBC James Capel shows several investment trusts are now breaking through their habitual discount levels.

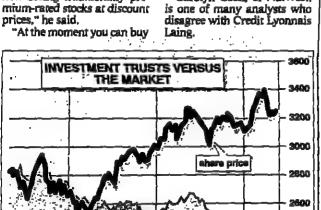
Against that, Credit Lyon-nais Laing's report predicts no upturn in prices. It believes that investment trust discounts will widen further and rates as high as 20 per cent will become standard.

An upturn in investment trust prices depends upon the return of institutional buyers into the sector. Credit Lyonnais Laing's argument is that major buyers have permanently lost interest in invest-

Some analysts believe that a wave of takeover deals is imminent for the poorer performing investment trusts, and investors could reap benefits from these.

"There is a lot of collective American money building up and buying investment trusts is something of a heads you win, tails you do not lose scenario right now," said Mr Korwin-Szyminowski. "If you invest in a trust and it does not perform, sooner or later it is likely that an arbitrageur will wind it up."

Carolyn Cook, of NatWest,



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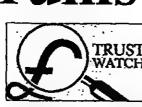
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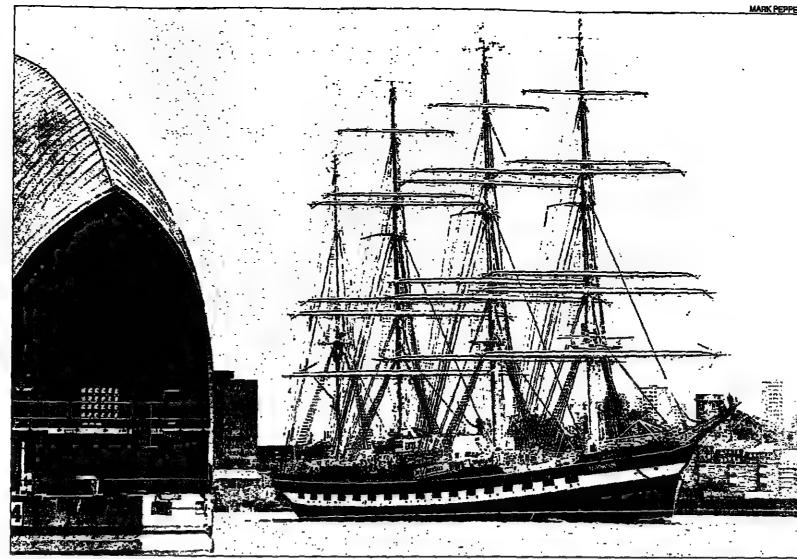
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We do not give financial advice.



at the moment because of the coming election and the uncertainty over what the next government will do in its Budget," she said. "But institutions are not blind to the fact that some trusts are extremely

If you think that investment trusts are due for a comeback, analysts' tips include Brunner investment, the Banker's Trust, Henderson Electric & General, Martin Currie Securities, Taiwan Investment and the Scottish Mortgage. It is possible to buy shares in investment trusts for as little as £25 per month using a regular savings plan, and you can obtain free information on these from the Association of Investment Trust Companies on 0171-431-5222.



London bound: analysts think a wave of takeover deals is imminent for poorer performing trusts, as foreign investment companies build stakes

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Sharelink to deal on election night

announced that it will be operating a share dealing service throughout election night on May I. The service will allow Frequent Traders Club members to deal while the London market is closed between 4.30 pm on election day and 8.30 am the following morning. Call 0990 810810.

☐ Whether you have £50 or £50,000 to invest at home or abroad, it pays to spread your money, says the latest Which? Books publication. Which? Way to Save and Invest. priced at £14.99, will help you to devise an investment strategy to maximise your money. as well as guide you through the complexities of share ownership. Available from bookshops or Which? Ltd on 0800 252100.

☐ Ten million customers could be carrying out their banking through a PC by 2005, according to research by Barciays Bank, in order to meet the needs of those wishing to bank from home, Barclays has launched two PC banking services. The first will offer a link with Microsoft Money 97 and enable customers to manage

1 Year

2 Years

3 Years

4 Years

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harelink, the execution-only stockbroker, has software. The second will be a stand-alone Barclays PC Banking Service that will allow customers to pay bills and check balances. Call 0800 000097 for more details.

> A new range of fixed-rate savings accounts with interest rates of up to 7.15 per cent gross per annum will be introduced on Wednesday by Birmingham Midshires. The minimum investment £5,000. Call 0645 720721.

> ☐ If your personal pension is being reviewed at the moment, a useful factsheet published by the Securities and Investments Board explains what may happen next and haw to speed the process up. For a copy, call 0171 382 0830.

> □ Cheltenham & Gloucester has launched an instant transfer account paying 6 per cent gross per annum on the investment minimum £1,000. Call 0800 742437. C&G has also introduced a twoyear fixed-rate bond, available for a limited period only, paying a guaranteed annual return of 7.10 per cent gross. Call 0800 717505.

> > LIZANNE ROSE

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FIXED FIATE

Birmingham Midshires 9.375% Bradford & Bingley 11.625% Bradford & Bingley 13.000%

| INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS | Account | Notice of term | Deposit | Rate | Interes paío |
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| | | | | | |
| Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060 | Instant Access | Instant | 13 | 5.75 | Yh |
| Cheftenham & Glouc 0800 742437 | Instant Transfer | inst B | £1,000 | 6.00 | Yh |
| Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 | Select Instant | Postal | 55,000 | 6.35 | Yh |
| Bristol & West BS 0800 202121 | Instant Postal | Postal | £10,000 | 6,40 | Yi |
| | | Notice | | | Interes |
| NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS | Account | of term | Deposit | Rate | paid |
| Nottingham BS 0115 956 4422 | Postal Plus | 30 day p | \$2,500 | 6.40 | Yh |
| Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 | Select 60 | 60 day p | 125,000 | 6.70 | Yh |
| Scarborough BS 0800 590578 | Scarborough 100 | 100 day | 21,000 | 6.30 | Yi |
| Leopold Joseph 0171 588 2323 | 100 Day Notice | 100 day | £10,000 | 6.54 | Yly |
| | | Notice | | | Interes |
| FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE) | Account | of term | Deposit | Rate | paid |
| Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505 | Fixed+teeder a/c | 5 year | EB.575 | 7.55 | F/Yh |
| Bank of Ireland (GB) 0800 971971 | Fixed+feeder opt | 5 year | 23,000 | 7.50 | F/Yh |
| West Bromwich BS 0990 143668 | | 5 vear | 23,000 | 7.00 | Yh |
| Monmouthshire BS 01633 840454 | | 5 year | 21,000 | 7.00 | Yh |

| VEA | DIT CARDS BE | ST BUYS | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| CREDIT CARDS | Card type | Interest per month | APR% | Fee per |
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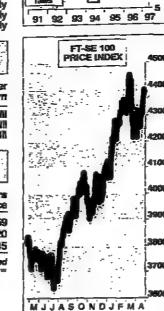
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs
with insurance no insurance no insurance Northern Rock BS 0345 421421 12.90%H E114.29 £102.59 Lombard Direct 0800 215000 13,90%A E120.02 £101.20 RBS Direct 0800 121125 14.00% 2114.95 £101.45 Nb. A = APR dependent on credit rating, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing Sys m, C = no interest tree period, F = Faced

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

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BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

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FIRST-TIME BUYERS Interest rate % Loan Building Societies Bristol & West Rate fixed-1.3.98 £15k+ plus 1% cashback 3% discount for 0800 119955 £15-100k 3.99 01635 43576 12 months 3% dsc-31.5,99,0.5% Halifax 01422 333333 4,25 no min/ over SVR-31.5.2004 maximum Banks Bank of Ireland 0.99 £20-145k 6.50% disc 6 mins 3% disc 6 mths Rate fixed to 01189 510100 to £125k 31.7.99

Larger lenders fours and lest-one buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753-890482).



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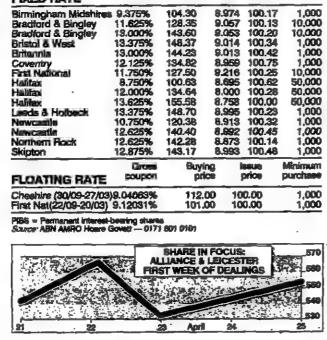
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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Service pay is 'abated' to fund pensions

Sir, Congratulations on your

article "Wrong Side of the Date". April 12, about Kate Bartholomew and those widows of post-retirement marriages to ex-servicemen prior to April 6, 1978 who are

denied a widows pension.

A serviceman's pay is
"abated" as a notional contribution to his pension scheme and it is scandalous that their widows should not receive a pension because they retired before April 6, 1978.

Most of the surviving exservicemen involved served during the Second World Was and are terrified of dying because their wives will lose their service pension when they do.

The compulsory abatement of a serviceman's pay must be acknowledged as the serviceman's contribution to a future pension for himself

There is hardly a pension scheme in the country, including Members of Parliament, nor among our allied forces, which persists in so archaic a restriction. Yours faithfully, PIP NEWTON. "Fairviews". 56 Quarry Road.

Winchester, Hampshire From Mrs E. Marshall Sir, I was very interested in

reading Jenny Grove's re-port. My husband died in 1995 after 50 years of marriage. He joined the Navy in 1935, served 35 years and was promoted to Lieutenant-Commander. He always feit bitterly disappointed knowing that on his death I would



Kate Bartholomew was penalised by the 1978 ruling

only be granted one third of his pension! We all want to provide for ourselves, so we can spend the last years in our own homes. A realisation is also called for that the discussion about the elderly widows, should not be conducted solely in economic and financial terms. The elderly have their own specific and peculiar problems.

Making them feel as if they are a burden on the country is equal to giving them a shove towards a desperate end! It is miserly repayment for the efforts they made

when they were able to. The Government, after years of not giving a fig to what extent its attitude towards "Armed Forces Pensions" and their lamilies was

realised that some realistic thinking must be done. A victory for 52,000 elderly widows who still only receive a third-rate pension would do much for the next Prime Minister's image! Yours faithfully. E. MARSHALL, 47 Chestnut Avenue, Bedhampton,

Hampshire.

From Mr H. Quinlan Sir, The hardship suffered by war widows whose husbands retired or died prior to March 1973 is compounded by the refusal of the Government to allow this rapidly dwindling number of pensioners to make the required contribution to bring their pensions up from one third to

Having voted themselves a liberal increase in salary with automatic pension rights for themselves and their widows, the members of the House of Commons show a lamentable lack of consideration for the hardship and injustice to a category of pensioners who deserve

The estimate of £29 million a year quoted by the Minister for the Armed Forces presumably has not been intensively costed and does not include the amount of the "buy-in" element to those who are at present excluded from bringing their pensions up to the present level. Yours faithfully,

H. OUINLAN, White Bridge, Redlands Lane, Crondali, Farnham,

Loyalty misplaced

From Mr A.F. Endicott Sir, I am not at all surprised that Mr J. Drummond (Rule Britannia, Weekend Money Letter, April 19) was disappointed with his Britannia loyalty bonus, which is in fact

completely mis-named. When this scheme was introduced, Britannia sent out a points "ready reckoner" which made it perfectly obvious that the scheme was totally biased against long standing deposit holders in favour of borrowers and purchasers of products such as unit trusts and insurance. I immediately withdrew most of a substantial sum in a Capital Trust account leaving sufficient only to ensure entitlement to my future windfall which I believe to be still on the cards

possibly from a takeover. My recommendation to Britannia depositors would be to use their funds to cover other possible windfall societies, of which there is still a fair number. This could prove a far more profitable strategy. Yours faithfully, a endicott. The Lodge. Erwarton, Ipswich.

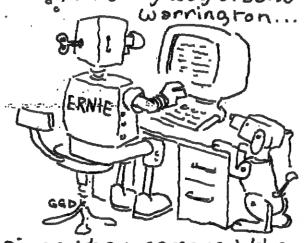
Prizeless in Warrington

Sir, Following the success of a letter in your columns diverting Ernie's attention to Strathclyde, may I use them to draw his notice my wife's

She won a £10 and a £1

1960s. Neither has yet yielded a single prize. May we hope that this letter produces similar results? PAUL TAYLOR.

Dear Bond Holder, I haven't . Found my way around Warrington ...



since they removed the Street Signs during the War

Unfriendly точе

From Mr S.M. Gold Sir. Insurance companies do nothing to reduce the image that they delay payments to

the last moment.

I had a 20-year policy with the Friends Provident maturing on April I, 1997. With my application, I gave them my bank details and asked them to transfer the proceeds (a not insubstantial five-figure sum) and believed that they would use the bank's auto crediting

I should not have been surprised, however, when I received a letter saying that a cheque had been sent to my bank and I should allow a few more days for it to clear. I calculate that this saved the insurers £35. If you multiply on maturing policies, the loss must run into tens of millions of pounds each year. Yours faithfully, S. GOLD,

Allied Manufacturing Co. (London) Ltd. Sarena House, Grove Park. Colindale. NW9.

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|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| BRITANNIA | 6.00% GADSS P.A | |
| NATIONWIDE | 6.20% | |
| HALIFAX | 5.60% GROSS PA | |
| WOOLWICH | 5.40% | |
| ABBEY NATIONAL | 5.00% GB035 MA | |

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Figures and conditioner: *Source Blay's Cutden. Comparison correct as at 23 April 1997, and is limited to rates available on that date alone. Comparison is on the basis that withdrawed sents and to purply brench need to keep the providers reterred to interest stars shown are for believes of £100,000, interest and group. For the Findaum risks account withdrawed at address after 0 delay of most, or interest and providers heldered in the Selection of the providers and interest on the amount withdrawed are placed of the providers of the providers and interest on the amount withdrawed providers on the amount of the providers of t

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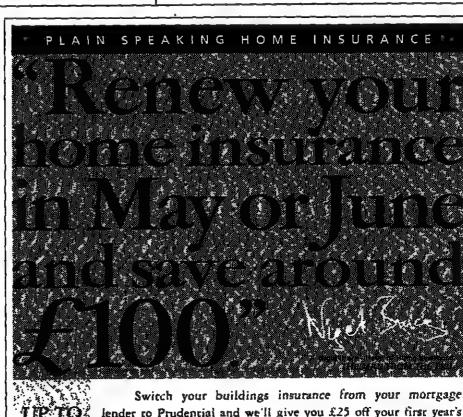
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RACING

EXPERIMENTAL EXPANSE.

Gosden's colt looks pick of Derby hopefuls

much one to treat with cau-

tion," the Halifax experts

Like many temperamental-ly unreliable horses, Harwell

Lad is not short of ability and

he is a particularly fine jumper of fences. However,

unlike most scallywags, he

still manages to win his fair

share of races and a spell of hunting with today's rider,

Rupert Nuttall, seems to have

A victory at Towcester in

December was followed by a

decent effort at Chepstow re-

cently. If he condescends to

put his best foot forward,

Harwell Lad can pull off a shock result at the main

expense of his stable-compan-

ion. Bishops Hall, who is well

Garnwin will be fancied to

resume his winning ways in

the Brewers Fayre Novices

Chase (2.50), but the likely

favourite could make Ken-

more-Speed a value proposi-

tion. Sue Smith's progressive

chaser has been running over

an extended three miles but

should not be inconvenienced

by today's shorter trip at this

Tamure may need the run

the David Lloyd Leisure

Gordon Richards Stakes (4.45), while Bequeath could

be tapped for toe over this trip.

Ali-Royal beat Wixim in the

Earl Of Sefton Stakes and that

form received a boost when

the runner-up landed the Sandown Mile yesterday.

Henry Cecil's progressive four-year-old should appreci-

The best bets may be away from the gaze of the television

(5.15 Sandown) making con-

siderable appeal now that he

The Michael Stoute-trained

steps up to a mile.

ate today's extra furlong.

stiff track.

treated on his best form.

sweetened him up.

MACING CORRESPONDENT

A CELEBRATED rogue and a modern-day rascal attempt to steal the glory at Sandown this afternoon by landing the day's two feature races - the Thresher Classic Trial and the Whitbread Gold Cup.

Benny The Dip, who is likely to start favourite for the Derby trial, takes his name from a New York pickpocket and like his half-brother, Beggarman Thief, featured in Damon Runvon stories. But unlike his literary namesake. the son of Silver Hawk is no scoundrel. Far from it.

The winner of three of his five starts last term, including the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot, the colt displayed progressive form and a likeable attitude. He twice defeated Desert Story, winner of the Craven Stakes at Newmarket last week, and has been showing up well on the gallops at

John Gosden has won four of the last five runnings of this

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TANAASA (5.05 Leicester) Next best: Irish Accord (5.15 Sandown Park)

group three race but, as he pointed out yesterday, on previous occasions his horses had the advantage of a previous outing. They either ran at Ripon or Kempton beforehand and we targeted this race because it is valuable. This fellow is going there for his first run. He's fine but he will come on a lot for the race," the Newmarket trainer said.

If there is a fitness doubt, the Henry Cecil-trained Besiege looks the best alternative. He is 4lb better off for a brace of narrow defeats by Gosden's runner, but I just prefer Benny The Dip.

While Benny The Dip is a charlatan in name only, the Harwell Lad, whose doubtful reputation makes him the longest priced of three Robert

Ainer-trained runners. On several occasions he has Tanaasa (5.05 Leicester) hown a willingness to pull should make short work of his shown a willingness to pull himself up during races and rivals after the victory of his fully justifies his Timeform galloping companion, Regal squiggle, confirming he is a dodgy customer. Still very



RACING NEXT WEEK

galloping companion, Regal Patrol, at Beverley on Thurs-

SOUTHWEIL (ATV. 2 30).
TUESDAY, Beth (2 00), Nottingham (2 15),
Ascot (BBC, 5 30), Huntington (5 15) WEDNESDAY: Ascot (88C, 2,30), Exster (2 20), Plumpton (2 10), Cheltenham (5 25), Ketso (5 45) THURSDAY: Redoor (2.30), Wolver-hampton (AW, 2.15) FRIDAY: Newmenter (C4, 2.05), Museus-burgh (2.15), Newton Abbot (1.60), Bangor (6.00), Sedgoficki (5.45) SATURDAY: Newmarket (CA, 200), Hay-dock Park (BBC, 110), Hereford (225), Thusk (220) Ultoustor (210), Heuham (Sky, 600), Warwick (Sky, 5.45) SUNDAY: Novemarket (C4, 2,00), Hamilton Park (2,20) Salisbury (2,10)



FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards.

WHITBREAD GOLD CUP 3 miles 5 furlongs, H'cap Chase, Sandown 3.30pm, Live on CH4 TV.

7/2 Avro Anson

7/2 Barton Bank 4/1 Flyer's Nap

11/2 Bishops Hall 7/1 McGregor The Third

7/1 Yorkshire Gale

9/1 Feathered Gale 12/1 Harwell Lad

200/1 Tom's Gemini Star

Each way One Fifth the odds a place 1,2,3. Praces subject to fluctuation. Mailable up to 3.15cm Tattersalis Rule 4(c) may apply Non runner – no be



TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892. WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY

Wixim confounds Charlton with battling win

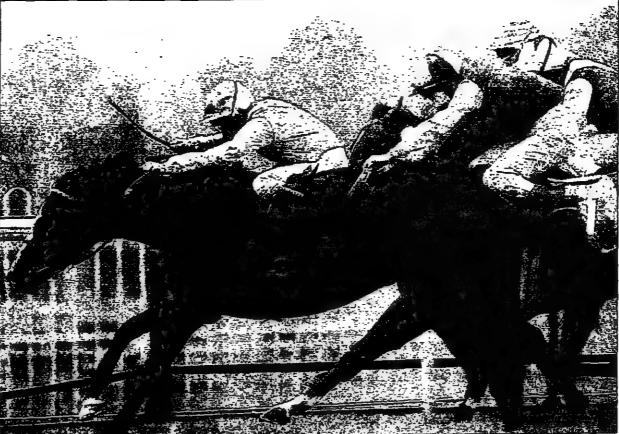
By JULIAN MUSCAT

ELEVEN months of frustration dissolved before the eyes of Roger Charlton yesterday when Wixim, as brittle as he is talented, held off the determined challenge of First 1sland to claim the group two Sandown Mile.

Patient as he is, the Beckhampton trainer believed Wixim a spent force when a succession of injuries kept him off the track for much of last season. The horse is made of stern stuff, however, and he summoned it to maximum effect here as First Island, set a testing assignment from the rear of the field, threatened to pull the race from the fire.

Indeed, even with his 61b penalty. First Island looked poised to snaffle Wixim as he ranged up to Pat Eddery's girths approaching the final furlong. But the five-year-old's effort flattened out rather curiously as it turned out, for he rallied to good effect when Michael Hills put down his whip in an act of

resignation. There will be other pay-days for First Island, who now heads for the Lockinge Stakes. But Wixim fully deserved his moment of glory, his courage seeing him through some untimely jostling as he attempted to settle the issue. It quickly became evident that the colt was blameless, the trouble con-



Wixim withstands the late challenge of First Island, nearside, to capture the Sandown Mile yesterday

cerning the errant passage of Gothenberg, who ran his best race in fourth place. It was diminutive Bin Rosie who suffered most; he did well to secure third place in

Chariton, whose first turf winner of the season this was. almost withdrew Wixim from the contest earlier this week. "I wasn't keen to run him. but there was no other suitable race for two months." the

3.30 41ST WHITEREAD GOLD CUP (Handicap chase: grade BI: E57.400; 3m 5f 110yd) (9 runners)

trainer said. "There was always something wrong with him last year. I thought he was a lost cause at one stage but he was treated in Newmarket over the winter and came back in great nick.

Robert Sangster has stoutdefended Revoque despite e colt's recent reverse at Newbury, Interestingly, Revoque returns to that venue for a racecourse gallop this morning; connections obvi-

ously believe the 2,000 Guincas candidate requires shaking up from his home complacency. But Sangster's aspirations for Romanov in the Irish equivalent were suspended when the son of Nureyev advertised his immaturity in winning the Tudor Conditions Stakes.

An impressive individual. Romanov gave John Reid all sorts of problems before buckling down to catch Harry Wolton close home. It was thoroughly composed performance from Reid, who nursed, then cajoled and finally forced this three parts brother to Balanchine to the front - all accomplished with a measure of restraint. The horse dropped his bit turning into the straight and I thought that was the end of it." Sangster said. "We might have to miss Ireland and give

him some more education." Royston Pfrench was fortune to escape injury after a nasty fall from Shouk in the April Maiden Fillies' Stakes. won impressively by Sean Woods's Oaks entry, Ukraine

Venture. There will be plenty of parking space around Sandown today for the Whitbread Gold Cup. A series of security measures will restrict parking near the racecourse but alternative sites, with regular shuttles to and from the track, should ensure minimal disruption for

SANDOWN PARK

2.15 Alpen Wolf 2.50 Fine Thyns

4.10 Besiege 4.45 NEEDLE GUN (nep) 3.30 Yorkshire Gale

Our Newmerket Correspondent: 4,10 Besiege, 4,45 SASURU (nep).

Going: Good, Good to Firm in Places TOTE JACKFOT MEETING DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 PEZZA HUT MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts and geldings: £3,571: 5t 6yd) (10 runners)

ALPEN WOTE (R Haim) Wides 6-11

ALPEN WOTE (R Haim) Wides 6-11

BASIC STYLE (M Moore) in Calegina 8-11.

BATSWING (R Wides) in Mason 6-11

BENPRIOR NAVEEN 9 (Mrs E Mooran) B Malain 8-11

CISEN (In For The Codd) Mrs P Dudield 6-17

SPROSE 9 (Fightee Pincing Lin) R Harmon 8-11

SWOOSH (Codd) (Spots Maria) B Modem 6-11

SWOOSH (Spots Maria) B Modem 6-11

SWOOSH (Spots Maria) B Modem 6-11

SWOOSH (Spots Maria) B Modem 6-11 latics, 7-2 Press, 5-1 Ron's Pet, 7-1 Empour Habeam, 8-1 Burn, Style, Sweath, 15-1 Others

1988: ROMAN IMP 8-11 J Tale 65-1) A James 9 re FORM FOCUS

HOH JUSTICE (14,000 gra, Apr 15), several kali (by Absolom) to Focare Si vion by Pourdia; dam no 22 - 101 St winner or France.

2.50 BREWERS FAYRE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE | 211PES STATELY HOME 7 (CLLF.6) | P Bowed P Bowen 6-12-0 | R. Leitmenn 371112 | SARWWR 14 (D.F.G) | Phone Heat-Frontwell R Heaterson 7-11-4 | M.A. Fizgardi 121114 | Piec HYME 68 (D.F.G.S) (P Wegans) list A Portel 5-16-13 | R. Durmouth Br. S. G. (D.F.S) (R. M. & Nie E Reitmin N Headerson 6-18-3 | N. Windowson 221211 | SCHAUGH BR.V. SQL (D.F.S) (R. M. & Nie E Reitmin N Headerson 6-18-3 | N. Windowson 221211 | SCHAUGH SWFET 42 (BF.G.S) (R. Dacher) Mr. S. Smith 10-16-3 | R. G. Marin 10-16-3 | R. G. Marin

Long handlesp: Goldenswill 9-8 Full Oil Bounce, 9-1, Tom's Apachy 8-5 BETTING: 9-4 Carriero, 7-2 Kergnary-Speed, 4-1 Fata Thyria, 5-1 Plandar Bay, Stately Hasse, 6-1 others 1996: DESTRY CALLS 6-10-2 R Demondy (4-1) It Gaseloc 8 rgs

FORM FOCUS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Market Rasen: 210 Nor Espit. Ripor: 520 Legal Right Wohenhampton: 700 Rsky Lover 730 Chilling Wordster: 545 Regal Pursut 615 Old Redwood 715 Walking Tall

283221 BARTON BAME 23 (C.F.G.S) (Mr.S. I Toylo) (5 tombos) 283221 BARTON BAME 23 (C.F.G.S) (Mr.S. I Mondi) D Meinbon 11-11-10 125-306 AMFO AMSON 19 (F.G.) (8 Santon) M Carrocko 9-10-10 44-PIPI RYFTS NAP 46 (D.G.S) (7 Carrol) R Alvar 11-10-6 1-241PP BEHOPS HALL 19 (F.G.S) (7 Carrol) R Alvar 11-10-6 1-241PP BEHOPS HALL 19 (F.G.S) (7 Carrol) R Alvar 11-10-6 1-14120 YORKSHEE GALE 48 (C.F.G.S) (R Maylor) J GROOT 11-10-7 1-14120 YORKSHEE GALE 48 (C.F.G.S) (R Maylor) J GROOT 11-10-7 112122 MCGREGOR THE THIRD 42 (F.G.S) (Mr.D Metalor) (5 Related) 11-11 PRIFTU TOM'S GEMBA STAR 14 (F) (0 Carlo) 0 Carty 9-10-4 Long handcap: Hernell Lad 9-6, McGregor Ru: Third 9-6, Ton's Genini Star 6-13 BETTHIS: 3-1 Ame Acoen, 7-2 Barton Bark, 4-1 Flyes's Map. 5-1 Bishops Hall, 8-1 Fiz Third, Yorkshus Gale, 16-1 Hornell Lad, 250-1 Terms German Szar 1996: LIFE OF A LORO 10-11-10 C Soun (12-1) A F O'Boom (Ing. 17 can FORM FOCUS BARTON BANK boal Meny Gale 91 in 5-numer gade il Martell Cup at Aintee (2m il. gond) ANPO ANSON 3050 8th of 35 to Lord Gylens in Metrell Grand Rational 47 Aintee (4m 41 good) with FFATHERED GALE (5th better oil) pulled up 2 aut. FLYRTS MAP boal Stermiracher 15t in 14-uusuur handcap chase at Cheberham (2m 11, good) with YORKSHEE GALE (5th bitter oil) 751, 7th. FEATHERED GALE 3041 last of 5 to Wykle Hide in handicap chase at Leopardstown (2m %, soft) on penulianate start. HARWELL LAD 61 2nd of 6 % Sand Noop o handicap these at Chrestow (3m good) McGREGOR THE THERD 427 5th of 10 to Supen Towers as grade at Marachine Pedigmon Middlands Grand National at Uniocetic 14m 3, good) TOM'S GEMINI STAR heart Vital Song 51 in 9-rusing harder chase at Vincarion (2m St. good to 4.10 THRESHER CLASSIC TRIAL (Group III: 3-Y-0: £40,194: 1m 2f 7yd) (6 runners) | 401 | 55 | 21113- BENNY THE DIP 182 (40) (Lambout Vingori) J Genden 9-6 | L Dieteral 94 | 462 | 40 | 3151- VOYAGERS DUEST 151 (F.S) (II Simputar) P Chappin-Hyem 8-12 J Razd 98 | 463 | 63 | 4134- BESECE 182 (F.S) (X Abdulla) H Deeth 8-10 X Falkon 97 | 464 | (3) | 21314- FURTHER OUTLLOOK 188 (F.G) (Laber Harrison) Nics A Power 6-10 ... M Hits 84 | 465 | (2) | 461- S.L.VER PATRIARICH 175 (D.G) (F Winfald) J Diming 8-10 ... Pat Endery 98 | 465 | (1) | 466-42 | VANLENSKY 169 (S) (V Schirone) J Diming 8-10 ... T Opiss 66 1996: SANTILLANA 8-10 L Delimi (6-1) J Gestien 9 za FORM FOCUS

PRIORY THE DIP THAT had in it in the heavy a second prior the district that the heavy and the heavy. The heavy and the heavy and

4.45 DAVID LLOYD LEISURE GORDON RICHARDS STAKES (Group II: £19,110: 1m 217yd) (7 nuners) 501 (4) 00830-2 NEEDLE GUN 23 (D.F.G) (5 Manual C Bottan 7-9-1 ... B Duyle 94
502 (2) 3/24111- SASURU 254 (D.G) (A Opportunity) 5 Wagg 4-9-1 ... M HRIs 96
503 (5) 02211-1 ALL-ROYAL 10 (G.S) (Greeniny Sobles Lin) M Cesh 4-8-13 ... K Fallon (8)
504 (3) 54982-8 WESTRUCTURE 10 (F.G) (M Myess) Mrs. J Cesh 5-8-13 ... Paul Edway 98
505 (7) 3/2115- BOULEATH 291 (F.G) (A Modulal M Cesh 5-8-14 ... J. Dome 91
506 (6) 2212- MOLTICOLOURED 176 (D.G) (Lord Westslock) M Storth 4-8-10 ... J Baild 90
507 (1) 1274440 TAMBURE 202 (D.F.G.S) (Shelin Molamined) J Goodes 5-8-10 ... L Datton 90 BETTING: 7-4 All-Rayal, 7-2 Desperalt, 6-1 Multicoloured 7-1 Seaun, 8-1 Medile Gue, Resir 1986: 98855PIEL 4-8-10 L. Deston (11-10 fee) M Shoule 12 can

FORM FOCUS

INCEDILE CUM 11 2nd to Tancasz in Dobr Duty
From States at Natl At Shebe (fin 2) 550, SASJANU
bent Andrond sh lind in group if Prin Guellame
d'Ornano at Decordie (fin 2), group ALFROYAL
best Viture 21 in group iii Earl of Selber States at
Newsysted (fin 3), group TANDIRE (6) (4th lo 16
b Helszon by group 15 of the Newsysted (fin 3), group TANDIRE (6) (4th lo 16
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de Tramphe (fin 4), group of the RESTRUCTURE
de Tramphe (fin 5), group of the RESTRUCTURE
de Tramphe (f

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TRAES 74 (CO,BF,F,S,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B What (4) . Bt

course and distance without. BF - benter because in latest race). Going on which horse has even (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — sett, good to self, heavy). Owner in brackets

5.15 MARRIOTT HOTELS HANDICAP

| | ,, | MARKET | OII UOIETO UMANIOME | |
|----|------------|----------|---|-----|
| -Y | -0: E | 9,495: 1 | m 14yd) (11 runners) | |
| h | (11) | 155240- | RUCH IN LOVE 207 (P) (A Cyan) C Cyan B-7 K Fallon | 2 |
| Ż | (7) | | JRISH ACCORD 23 (F) (P Learner) Mrs. J Remedian 9-4 | 87 |
| 3 | (M | 56110- | AMYAS 191 (F.S.) (Mr. J Corbok) B HRL 8-13 | 91 |
| N | (3) | 213356- | BRIDE'S REPRISAL 233 (F,S) (Mrs J Keegen) M Charmon B-12 R Hughes | 94 |
| 6 | A | | SHEER FACE 9 (D.F) (A de V Prancto W IAuri 8-12 J Reid | 93 |
| | | | HALOWING 14 (F) (Astron Sted) J Smyth-Osboottis 8-10 B Dovin | 91 |
| 7 | (10) | 313-2 | RAPLER 10 (D.F) (Mrs & Karne) R Hammon 8-10 Dane O'Nell | 4 : |
| 8 | (2) | 312- | KALDAKA 213 (F) (Bate Racing Club) P Cole 8-0 | 90 |
| 9 | | 1-2 | NO MORE PRESSURE 15 (D,G) (P Green) N Walker 8-5 Put Eddery | 93 |
| Û | (N) (2) | | OATELIUS 180 (6) // Wight) R Harmon 8-1 | |
| 1 | (ti) | 0-33 | BURNING TRUTH 17 (K Abdulla) R Charlton 7-13 R Pirech (5) | 98 |
| | | | | |

| (t) 0-33 BURNING TRUTH 17 (K Abdu 1965: 9-4 lean Accord, 9-2 Paper, 6-1 Azirda, 7-1 | ila) R Charlton 7-13 R Pfrench (5) 9 1 Annyos, 8-1 Origina, 18-1 Burning Truth. 12-7 others and (2-1 law) Mass G Kelleway 14 mm |
|--|--|
| FORM | |
| H ACCORD 3141 3rd of 6 to Grand Lad in Digns race at Leousier (6), fam). AMYAS 4441 at 18 to Crybergo in Aureary at Newmarked (6), I to limb SHEER FACE & 3rd of 5 to High at hillisted race at Aport (17th, cond). RAPIER | (7), good to firm) with SHEER FACE (10th belief) of 4th, NO MORE PRESSURE (4) 2nd to high bases in conditions man at Beverley (7). 100yd good to firm). ORTELUS heal Prince Of Dena neck in maiden at Leosator (7), good, REPART |

| ,, | vv | REFE | ATEK HESTAUKANT NATEU HANDIGAP | |
|-----------|------------|----------|---|---|
| LY | -0: £ | 7,492: 5 | if 6yd) (11 runners) | |
| 1 | (3) | 10353-5 | YASARI 28 (D.S) (A Tuckermen) M Chennon 9-7 T Oning | |
| 2 | (A) | 85123- | PADOY LAD 219 (CD,F) (M & S, Hill Ltd) F Guest 9-6 | |
| 3 | | | MYRIMIDON 28 (DLS) (M World) Mrs L Statobs 9-4 K Fallon- | |
| 4 | (9) | 055110- | MELDICSAH 198 (D,F) (Y Birol) M Bell 9-2 | |
| 5 | (0) | 214300- | SNAP CRACKLE POP 181 (D.F) (J Short) R Johnson Houghton 8-0 J Retd | |
| 6 | (iii) | 54120- | HATTAB 160 (O.G) (H. al-Matrouri) P Waleyn 8-13 R Hardnes | |
| 7 | di. | | CADEAUX CHER 35 (F) (N Browns) B Hits 8-11 | |
| 8 | (5) | 321111 | TREASURE TOUCH 9 (F.G.) (N Honeyman) D Nicholis 8-8 lone Wands (5) | |
| 9 | (8) | 12-5 | SILLIO 28 (D.S) IJ Namery) G Leans 8-7 Pat Eddary | 1 |
| 10 | (10) | | SABINA 196 (G) (The Dutern) I Baiding 8-4 L Detern | ì |
| 11 | (4) | 31-3 | BISHOPS COURT 37 (D.BF,6) (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 8-4 . J Fortune | |
| | | | and A I Desert York & I Cadra a Char Billio B Character at a Married at a | |

1896 DASHING BLUE 9-1 L Deton (11-2) I Belding 9 ren FORM FOCUS

MYRADON 144 3nd to Supanor Premaum an Interdinace at Hardock (St. sobt) with VASARI (3th supres) 34-1 5th MELINSAH best HATTAB (1th butter) 149 in market at Newmarks (St. good to fam) BELKSAH (3th butter) 149 in market (St. good to fam), TREASURE 111th BRADERIES (St. good to fam), TREA

| TRAINERS Mes J Rassellen J During J Gosden R Coot M Stoute | Wess 3 30 20 13 20 | Res 15 95 18 70 124 | 23.4 21.1 20.2 18.6 16.1 | JOCKEYS Par Eddery L Delicon Dane O'Neill T Gurant J Reid | Wroers 53 38 9 24 22 | 237 185 61 176 185 | % 22.4 20.5 24.8 13.6 11.9 |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|

WORCESTER

5.45 Fairly Sharp. 6.15 Lucky Eddle. 6.45 Factor Ten. 7.15 Keep Me In Mind. 7.45 Phar Too Touchy. 8.15 Mr Christie.

Carl Evans: 7.45 Phar Too Touchy.

GOING: GOOD

5.45 HENWICK MARIES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE

2,600 2m) (20 INRINGIS)

1 -674 MAGERIA ADMENIASE ST 67 MAC H ANAST 6-11-5 I College
2 1265 SEGAL PIRSIAT 14 (637) S PROGRESO 6-11-5 M. A PROSENTA
3 6222 SARLY SHARP 14 (637) S PROGRESO 6-11-5 M. A PROSENTA
4 PROD A BADGE TOO FARR 24 (6) Mac 1 (6) Mac 1 (7) Mac 1 (7 900 LUCRATIVE PERK 65 Most of Cares 5-10-12

3904 MACHAS WALK 26 R Tentro-Dates 7-10-12

8 Dentry
MADAM CRAS C Care 5-10-12

9 MACHAS WALK 26 R Tentro-Dates 7-10-12

6 ROVE FOR RUSE 65 T Server 6-10-12

9 SESSIMATIVES 11/12R 46 F Detect 5-18-12

9 TIMES 65 FOR 5-10-12

10 TECHRICAL MOVE 37 D WALK 5-10-12

10 DECOMPTE 11 No. 8 WALK 5-10-12

10 DECOMPTE 11 No. 8 WALK 5-10-16

10 DECOMPTE 11 No. 8 WALK 5-10-12

10 DECOMPTE 11 NO.

5-2 Mad Fox Adventors, 17-4 Facely Chara, 5-7 Regal Finance, 8-1 Majores a Walk. 14-1 Refig Fox Ratio, Fast Village o Lacta, 78-7 (Chara.)

6.15 WEST MALVERN HOVICES CHASE (£2.841: 2m) (6) 4-11 Lucky Eddie, 7-2 Technicselrys, 12-1 Card Gold, 16-1 Diamend Light, Gib Reduced, 50-1 Lady Residuary

5.45 NICK HALLIGAN AND PETER HIGGS HANDICAP CHASE (\$4,731 · 2m 7f 110yd) (7) ANDICAP CHASE (\$4,751 ZIN 71 11070) (**)

1 3005 BAVARD DEU 26 (\$33.5 Excles 9-11-70. © Limethy
2 1912 FACTOR TEN 162 (\$33.5 Excles 9-11-70. — 15 Taby
3 1135 ACT OF PREVAINT 58 (\$30.15.6) N East 9-11-12

4 0SFP SCREELER 19 (8 G.S.) & McCast 11-10-7 — 10 R Water (7)
5 2131 BALLY CLOVER 130 (6.5) McC V Seltime 10-10-6 (10000009)

6 1345 HAWABAN YOUTH 12 F.C.SI G 24:Coart 9-10-2 R Octrocody 7 PPSP TOP BRASS 39 IS] N.Enict 9-13-0 S McHell

9-4 Fador Ten, 7-2 Bally Closer 5-1 Azt OR Parlament, 6-1 Handian Yorth, Basard Day, 10-1 Scalabiar, Top S-1.

7.15 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE

3.092. (201) [10]

1 1620 TEAMO SOLD 21 (CD,C,S) P BODRY 7-11-10

1 1030 OUT RANDOMS 14 (CD,F,C,S) J Revillo 5-11-5

1 1-4U TOCH RST 147 (F,S) Miss H hospit 7-11-2

4 -24U TOCH RST 147 (F,S) Miss H hospit 7-11-2

4 -24U TOCH RST 147 (F,S) Miss H hospit 7-11-2

4 -24E JOSENIA 42 (D,F,S) A Feedo 6-11-1

MA Represent

6 012P EASY INSTERNED 22 (G) H Holde 5-10-9

1 1000 PERCY BONGER 21 (D,F) T Reday 5-18-9

1 1000 PERCY BONGER 21 (D,F) T Reday 5-18-9

1 1000 SINGER 21 (D,F) T REDAY T R

9 0000 SABST CIEL 9 (CD.E.S) F. Inctin 9-10-7 S. Wysen
10 5-2 POCA MIRADIA 266 (F.G) P. Holds: 8-10-5 ... 9 Websits
11 0633 RINO'S CROSS 24 (D.S) A.1 Wilson 9-10-4 ... 1, Parvey
12 D-3P WALTING TALL 39 (B. D.F.F.G) 1 Wilsonem 6-10-3 R. Johnson
13 510- YOUR 1965 479 (D.F.G) 1 Casey 7-10-3 ... J. A Miccarly
14 1233 CDULET'S WOLL 176 (CD.P.H.S S. MIRAGE, 9-10-3 C.F. SHANN
15 05- CRASSEAN PRINCE 7/4 (B.U.G) G. MicCard 9-10-8 ... S. Elchell
15 05- CRASSEAN PRINCE 7/4 (B.U.G) G. MicCard 9-10-8 ... S. Elchell
15 05- CRASSEAN PRINCE 7/4 (B.U.G) G. MicCard 9-10-8 ... S. Elchell 5-1 Earo Singer, 6-1 Teparo Galid, 7-1 Tight Fist, Parcy Brathwalle, 8-1 opher;

7.45 UPTON UPON SEVERN NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amaleurs: £1,123: 2m 71 110yd) (13)

8.15 POWICK HOVICES HANDICAP HURBLE

7-2 No-6-Roph, 4-1 September 7-1 Vallegale. Careca Mar. 18-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAMERS: Miss H Majalt, 12 winners from 46 namers, 26 fb, K Saier, 24 fazer 188, 22.2%, P Holdor, 26 fazer 128, 20.3%; J J Pillett, 3 fazer 16, 78.8%, R Len. B Fazer 46, 17.4% JOCKEYS: AP McCov, 27 mours from 107 rules, 25.2% J Colling, 5 from 25, 29.0%, N Williamston, 20 from 117, 17 1%, C Llevellyn, 20 from 130, 15.4%; R Charrooty, 32 from 213, 15.0%

2/10/22

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Magic Fizz. 7.30 Palacegate Jack. 8.00 Shanghai Lill. 8.30 All On. 9.00 Pink Ticket. 9.30 Sis Garden.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE 7.00 SARUMAN MAIDEN HANDICAP (£2,277: 61) (13 runners)

1 365 FORCING BID 170 M Prepail 3-9-12
2 48-2 DON'T WORRY MAKE 18 6 Lee 1-9-7
3 089- TOROWTO 189 J May 3-9-6
4 000- PRIMET IA 184 R Archert 4-9-6
5 000- EOPHESS ROUTING 206 V Some 5-9-6
6 589- PRIDONY PRINCESS 194 A 186-5-9-4
7 3-63 MAGIE FIZZ 56 T Envirigon 3-9-3
8 GBD- GOLBORNE LAD 385 J Badding 4-9-1
20 58-7 SAMPAR FIZZ 56 T Envirigon 3-9-3
10 58-7 SAMPAR FIZZ 56 T Envirigon 3-9-3
10 58-7 SAMPAR FIZZ 56 T Enviring 4-9-1
11 00-6 WINT HE TENTED 23 J SCOON 4-9-12
12 80-6 BLIKE ULGANA 33 M byour 5-8-7
3 2006 BLIKE ULGANA 33 M byour 5-8-7 Martin Dwyter (3) 11 J Brannink (5) 10 3-1 Con't Worty Miller, 7-2 Magic Fett. 4-1 Forcing Bid, 8-1 Steep Holly 10-1 Privatio, Bio Lugaro, 16-1 office.

7.30 STRIDER CLAIMING STAKES (£2,277: 5f) (10)

4 -130 SILA COTTAGE 9 (CD.G) II Windler 5-9-0 D McKeown 10 5 4280 FEATHERSTONE LARE 5 (CD.F.G) Mrss L Saddin 6-9-4 6 8-52 PERFECT STARKS 14 (F) J Bulling 6-9-4 7 0230 LITTLE BINS 14 (V,CD,F,G) P Feats 6-9-0 8 0 LITTLE PAPOUSE 14 8 McMallon 4-8-11 9 SUSES SURPY J Logh 14-0... 10 5485 CHILLING 14 (B,CD,G) IN Tobles 3-8-1 3-1 Auto. 7-2 Fort Made: 5-1 Featherstone Line, 6-1 Pedect Branc B-1 Palacognic Jack 18-1 Selt Collarge, Linke Barr, 16-1 others

8.00 WARLOND HANDICAP (£3,304: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1 DOG- MENTALASAMYTHAN 172 (CO.F.G.S) O Hayda Junes 8-10-0 2 4856 BENTICO 19 (CD FG) Nr. N Macantry 8-9-7 5 Sandors 3 3 6116 CAPTAINS DAY 31 (BF.F.G) H Collegeting 5-9-2 R Mullen (5) 11

9-4 Shangkar Lid. 7-2 Captain's Day, 6-1 Bestice, 18-1 Torganut 16-1 others.

8.30 FOLEY STEELS HANDICAP (£5,732: 1m 6l 166yd) (11)

| 1-100 OPERA BUFF 18 (C.F.G.S) Mrz. is helteria 6-10-0 Angelia Galintore (?) 2
| 304- PURPLE SPLASH 49J 47.0.G.S.) P Motion 7-9-13 S Sanders 7
| 3 2010 SUPPER HISR 66 (B.C.G.) P Proving 5-9-9 F Norther 4
| 2/G- DARK WATERG 250 is Grithen 4-8-8 D Holland 9
| 5-12 SEDBETIGN 18 (F.G.) Urb, M Reviety 4-8-4 J Chunn 5
| 5-12 SEDBETIGN 18 (F.G.) Urb, M Reviety 4-8-4 J Chunn 5
| 5-12 SEDBETIGN 18 (F.G.) B Hardon Jones 19-8-3 C Rutter 1
| 3 322 MULARI 36 (D.D.O.) R Hollandshead F-8-7 — F Lynch (J.) 8
| 2-210 RANDOM KRIDNESS 28 (C.B.F.G.) R Impair 4-8-0 J E Egan 6
| --200 ROVAL CRIZEN 14 (D.G.) J Rettering 8-7-10 C Literact 11
| 0-30 ML ON 25 (C.G.) J Hollandshead 9-7-10 C Million (5) 10
| 1-4 Sectionsh 3-1 Houten 5-1 Purple Sobeth, 10-1 Dark Whiters (Dress Botf 9-4 Sectional 3-1 Moutan 5-1 Purple Spleak, 18-1 Dark Waters, Opera Both Premier Dance 12-1 other:

9.00 STAR ENGINEERING SELLING STAKES (2-Y-0; £1.985 SI) (6)

1 01 DIAMOND STEVE 7 (V.D.F.) II TINAMO 9-3
0 CARRATION KING 7 W G M Tumor 8-12
1 05 WILFRED SKERMAN 18 3 BETT 8-12
1 55 WACK-#JLLY 18 J Moore 9-7
1 LAWLESS BRIGGET M Meade 9-7
1 D SWeeding (S) 4
1 F Eggs 5
1 346 PINK TICKET 4 P Erair, 8-7 2-1 Diamond Seve 3-1 Wilked Sterman 4-1 Pink Tuttet, 9-2 Jack-N.-billy, 8-1 Lantess Budget 12-1 Carration King

9.30 JOAN CHALK MEMORIAL HANDICAP

E2.217 (1) (12)

1 152 SQUARE DEAL 18 (D.G) C Boaring 5-10-0
2 3001 DRAGOMADY 18 (B.C.D.5) H Litmoder 4-10-0
3 -000 DRAGOMADY 18 (B.C.D.5) H Litmoder 4-10-0
4 0-04 MERCLRY 13 (G.D.G) J Legis 6-10-0
5 05-5 SAROER 13 (G.D.G) J Cultural 49-12
6 Duffield 6
5 10-5 SS SAROER 13 (G.D.G) J Cultural 49-12
7 25-0 PRINCES E15:00 18 CG B Maddaton 49-11
8 06-5 SAMARA SONG 1431 Williams 49-11
9 06-5 SAMARA SONG 1431 Williams 49-11
10 06-5 FULLY SOUGHTUY 16 (G.G) M Blandard 49-7
10 13-5 FULLY SOUGHTUY 16 (G.G) M Blandard 49-7
11 SAU- BRANDOMYLLE 269 N Torkin 49-6
12 0520 LOCK STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
13 SU- BRANDOMYLLE 269 N Torkin 49-6
14 CLOCK STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
15 O520 LOCK STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
15 Union 2
17 Union 2
18 June 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
19 Lock 13 Union 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
19 Union 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
19 Union 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
19 Union 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-4
19 Union 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-1
19 Union 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-1
19 Union 2
19 Union 2
19 STULE 10 (C.B.F.E) R Hollington 49-1
19 Union 2
19 1-7 Chapteries 7-2 Square Deal 6-1 Jupon Boy 7-1 Marcury 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAMERS, R Impair 7 intrines from 23 numers, 30 4% tal Meade, 6 from 24, 25 0%, M Piescott, 19 from 84, 22 6%, Mrs M Reveley, 12 from 53, 17 0%, J F Bottomley, 4 from 25, 16,0%. JOCKEYS: O Sweeney, 8 womers from 39 index, 20.5%, R Mollen, 5 from 25, 20.0%, F Sked, 3 from 17, 17.6%, R Lappin, 9 from 54, 16.7%, M J Dwyer, 4 from 25, 76.0%, G Caster, 31 from 217, 14.2%

Seven British runners contest the group two Italian 2000 Guineas, the Premio Parioli, in Rome tomorrow. The Clive Brittain-trained Air Express (Brett Doyle), who finished a close third in last year's Dewhurst Stakes, is likely to start favourite. The other British raiders in the 14-runner field are Granny's Pet. Handsome Ridge, Hurricane State, Poseidon, Royal Aty

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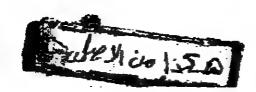
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230 EB F WILL CUGHBY VED AN

O TOTE BOOKS! AND TEAP

TOTE TRIG HANDICAP





GOLF: OLAZABAL'S HEARTWARMING ACE TRUMPED BY ROZADILLA

. Ballesteros's caddie fails to beat the cut

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADRID

ANOTHER chapter in the timehonoured battle between Severiano Ballesteros and the bag-carrying classes ended yesterday when Ballesteros and his caddie sacked each other. So what's new?

Ballesteros had just completed a round of 73 in second round of the Spanish Open at La Moraleja II when he announced that he and Martin Gray, his caddie for a little over a year, had parted company. He made it sound like a mutual decision, but there are a few out-of-work football managers around who could write a PhD thesis on the principles of what constitutes mutual consent, Usually, all that is mutual about it is that employer and employee agree that the underling has just been fired.

Ballesteros was positively funereal when he broke the news. "I want to tell you that Martin is not going to caddle for me any more," he intoned sombrely, as though announcing that his favourite dog had just been run over. "It seems that Martin has been disappointed

with the way I have been playing." Thus far. It sounded like Gray had taken the initiative to pull out of the partnership, but Ballesteros got closer to the truth, one suspects, when he added: "It seems to me that he did not have much energy on the golf course. We also had a little disagreement on the 6th hole, and it was after that that we

decided to have a break from each other." Ballesteros put his ball into

a lake on the 6th. Need more be said? Mutual consent? One thinks

Over the years Ballesteros has swapped caddies more frequently than Italians have changed their government. The count easily reaches double figures, and included in the list have been some

SCORES

Great Bruam and Ireland unless stated

Great Brusin and Instead unless stated

LEADERS AFTER TWO BROUNDES: 136: M James
67: 68: 137: T Bjorn (Joen) 68: 69: L Westwood 69.
68: R Chapman 70, 67: 138: I Pyrman 68, 70, E
Bornsor (Ang) 68: 79: R Mayriz (Helt) 70, 69: 139: A
Colles (Gat) 66: 73. I Garbutt 69, 70: C Whitelaw 18,
70, P Mitchell 70, 69: G Nicriman (Jus.) 69, 70: E
Cononsol (17: 15.7 G. Emerson 67: 72: J-L Guepy
(Fr) 71, 66: 140: C Watts 71: 69: D Hagens 70, 70
S Tonanca 70, 70, C Rocca 10; 70, 70; 70
S Tonanca (US) 73: 69: G Om 72: 69; M Roe 70, 71
P Boker 73: 65: J Cocones, Marqi 72: 56: P Lenhart
(Sp) 71: 70: D Edund (Swe) 73: 68: P Lenhart
(Sp) 71: 70: D Edund (Swe) 73: 68: P Lenhart
70; 71: A Hump 70, 71;

of the best in the business. Some have stuck at it, some have had much shorter periods of office -Joey Jones, the Liverpudlian who had the job for only five weeks, is still in dispute with Ballesteros over his dismissal.

If Ballesteros's form this season - five appearances, five missed cuts - had been repeated here. Gray would have at least walked away no worse off. It is a small irony, however, that he got his marching orders on the very weekend that Ballesteros made his first cut of the season, on one under

The poisoned chalice that is a job as Ballesteros's caddie has been taken over for the rest of the tournament by Raul, his 16-year-old nephew. Ballesteros Jr., who plays off 2.4 himself, can only hope that familial blood runs thicker than water in Uncle Seve's veins this weekend.

Mark James, meanwhile, put together his best performance since he beat Jeff Maggert 4 and 3 in the James dived to 116th in the order of merit last year, by 84 places his lowest finish in 21 seasons in Europe, but here he has scored 67 and 68 to finish on nine under par, two ahead of Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn and Roger Chapman and three in front of Jain Pyman, Eduardo Romero and Rolf Muntz.

The final punctuation point was put on the day when José Maria Olazabal had a hole-in-one with a six-iron on the 17th. There was a car on offer for an ace at the hole, but Olazábal failed to collect - José Rozadilla had performed the feat earlier in the day. Olazábal, it is pleasing to report, showed plenty of energy on the golf course when the



There was no disputing who was boss when Ballesteros parted ways with his caddie yesterday

Lyle family fortunes looking up

SANDY LYLE, who returned to a putting style he discarded years ago and recruited his wife, Jolande, as his caddie, had an opening round of 66 in the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic in North Carolina to share the lead with Mike Hulbert and Robert

The Scot, who won this tournament in 1986 and 1988, birdied the first three holes of the Forest Oaks course on which players were allowed preferred lies after recent heavy rain.

He had seven birdies in a sixunder-par round which left him a stroke ahead of a group including Tom Kite, the US Ryder Cup captain, and Steve Elkington, of Australia, leading money-winner on the US PGA Tour this season.

Lyle, who had a 79 in the opening round of the Heritage Classic last week and missed the cut, said: "That left me feeling pretty low. I played very badly and the frustration level was through the roof. My caddie [Max Curningham] sacked me and I wasn't sure how I was going to handle this week."

Lyle, 39, looked no further for a new caddie than his wife, who used to carry her husband's bag occasionally, but has hasn't done so recently. He changed his putting stance after watching a tape recording of his victory in this tournament II years ago. He noticed that he stood with his hips squarer to the target in those days and, reasoning that he had nothing to lose, reverted to that style. Not once did he three-putt.

Scores, page 51

Barber booked for double

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

WHAT does a clerk of the course do when watering has commenced and rain starts falling? "We carry on," Richard Barber said yesterday from his Dorset farm, scene of the Seavington meeting tomorrow, "We had a storm this morning and it's drizzling now but that would not be

As predicted, the start of the cricket season has induced ens and not a moment too soon for the point-to-pointing fraternity. However, the rains have come too late for the postponed Berks & Bucks and abandoned East Sussex & Ronney Marsh fixtures, both

Barber travels his exciting

Chairman, to the Berkeley meeting today. Julian Pritchard's double at the Cotswold on Wednesday gives him a lead of six over Tim Mitchell

in the men's title race. Strong Chairman should reduce Mitchell's deficit, while Polly Gundry and Earthmover look too strong for Alison Dare's choice of Split Second or Sams Heritage in

the ladies' race. Pip Jones could be leading the women's championship tonight, having joined Shirley Vickery and Polly Curling on 16 winners last weekend. Jones has winning chances on Conna Moss, Gunner Boon and Keep Flowing for David Brace at the Llangeinor today, while her association with Robert Williams's Touch

'N' Pass should reap the ladies' open.

Touch 'N' Pass, a winner four times this year, keeps fit working for his owner's Bridgend trekking business but a rumour that Curling and Vickery tried to hire him for the rest of the season seems to be untrue.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Atherstone at Cliffon-on-Dunsmore, 2m E of Rugby (first race 2.00), Berkeley, Woodlord, 15m N ot Bristol (2.00), Tife, Belcomro Mains, 3m N of Laven (2.00); Tangainor, Margam, 2m S of town (2.00), Teme Valley, Stampton Bryen, 10m W of Lucilov (2.00); Twerton Staghounds, Briston Down, 10m N of Sh Motton (2.00); York & Almsty, Easingwold, 14m NW of York (2.00)

TOMORROW: Grove & Rufford, at Southwell, inside NH course (2.00); Mild Devon, Slack Forest Lodge, 4m SW of Delev (1.00), Seafrington, Littlewanson, 3m S of Crewiesma (2.00); W Nortolic, Feleration, inside NH course (2.00) Before & Budis, Barbury Casile (postponed to May 25 st Aingston Blown!); E Sessex & Romany Marsh, Beshill (albendored)

RIPON ...

2.05 Finsbury Flyer. 2.35 Going Places. 3.05 Express Girl. 3.40 Dirab. 4.15 Lawehik. 4.50 Paint It Express Girl, 3.40 Dirab. Black. 5.20 Legal Right.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.05 YORKSHIRE IMPERIAL BAND SELLING STAKES (E2,790: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

1 SIZS - MORTHERN FAM 19 (B) IN Tenter 5-10-0 ... D. Mickenn. 4
2 CH-6 ACTION ARXISON 22 (D.F.G) 8 Inches 5-10-1 ... J. Trite 13
3 000- ASTROLABE 306 (B.F.) J. Bradey 5-9-10 ... J. Trite 13
3 000- ASTROLABE 306 (B.F.) J. Bradey 5-9-10 ... J. Figure 14
5 SIDD DURGAMS FIRST 19 F.G) Mrs. Ni Providey 5-9-10 A. Darbons 10
5 433- FRESBURY 9 (F.R. 276 (D.R. Hoopes 4-9-10 P.P. Niarriey 15) 11
6 AISD TALAR 25 (B) Mi Doct 5-9-10 ... Outs Bibson 12
7 0-85 TEN PAST 305 15 (F) Mi Ware 5-9-10 ... Darbot 5
8 00 NICAMFRICE 24 W Screy 4-9-5 ... J. Freezing 2
10 080- SARA CAMICER 228 Mickelone 4-9-5 ... S. Rejeton (7)
11 625- SIGES SIMPLY GREAT 2021 JJ O'Netll 4-9-5 ... S. Rejeton (7)
12 6-08 TYPPY GREAT (2) (V) J H. Wilson 4-9-5 ... S. Rejeton (7)
13 0 CLEAM SIMOP 8 1 Stantey 3-9-5 ... J. Chemister 8
14 December 15 Samply Pass 1 Santey 3-9-5 ... J. Chemister 8
15 Probbery Page, 4-1 Tair Past So., 9-2 Durgamo Fiel, 7-1 Minimum Fax, 8-1 7-2 Finchery Physr, 4-1 Test Paul So., 9-2 Durgemo Flast, 7-1 (Mediuse Fan, 8-1 Achen Jackson, She's Simply Great, 18-1 Claro Soop. 12-1 (Mens

2.35 vorkshire tourist board nowice auction filles stakes (2-Y-0: £2,830: 5) (8)

23 FLOWER O'CAMOE 26 M W Easterby 8-8, G Purble (6) 1 LADY MOLL 31 (D.G) R Bass 8-6. 0831 FILEY BRISG 16 (D.S) W Namp 8-3... GOLDEN WHARE IN Cremon 6-2 PP Marphy (5) 8
SHARP PET D McCane 8-2 M Barro (5) 6
SS GORIG PLACES 10 K busy 7-13 Maren Dever (5) 4
PETTE LADY P Schee 7-13 PETER 12 F Egen 1
91LYAN GLOUD C Penturel 7-13 C. Charmach 2 5-2 Lady Molt. 3-1 Flower O'Canale, 5-1 Flow Brags, 7-1 Goldon Miraga, 8-1 Goorg Places, Pethr Lady. 12-1 Sylvan Cloud, 33-1 Sharp Pat.

3.05 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,664: 61) (18)

6-1 Duuble-O, 7-1 Levelled, Ahears Alight, 8-1 Return Ol Amen, Mon Blace, 10-1 Superchanner, Bold Guyle, Hoyar Cascada, 12-1 others 3.40 c B HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap. £5,288: 2m) (9)

CUP (Handicap, E6, 288: 27n) (9)

1 10: BETLEN BLUE 269 (CSF; E6, J Webs, 4-10-8 ... J Carrell 5

2 500- HECKET ME 195 (CDF; E5, S) & M Moore 11-9-12 ... J Tale 7

3 0-35 DEFAS 31 (D.F.S) T Sarron 4-9-5 ... W Ryen 9

4 50-1 TURNPULE 16 (F.S) Mrs M Reveloy E-9-3 ... A Contrate 3

5 25-2 SECE PERIL (U.S. 20 (EF, S) What 4-9-6 Marken Dayer (A) 8

6 0-2 LA RIBER 22 (D.E.S) M Ryen 5-9-4 ... K Hodgen 6

8 000 AUMRAN AU (C.F.G) I Sye 11-8-2 ... T Websters 1

9 -224 HERE CURES HERBE 12 (D.F.G) W Stoney 5-9-1 P Fessory (5) 6

3-1 Stoney Persburk, 7-2 Trampole, 4-1 Readin Blue, 6-1 Heightburg, 7-1 Duch, 8-1

(A Breat, Hose Comes Histor, 10-1 others

4.15 YORKSHIRE DALES MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,550: 1m 2f) (9)

3 BARRERY 28 J Mins 9-0 J Cannell 1
8- DOUBLE ALLEGED 178 M Johnston 9-0 J Witerver 7
6- FATAL SAFRA 185 J Gordon 9-0 B Canter 6
3 LAWANNE 26 D Mariny 9-0 B Canter 6
3 MONETON 11 N Cool 9-0 W Ryun 3
00-0 QUT OF SIGNEY 7 B McMahan 9-0 L Novembre 7
1004SRTS PRIZE C Wall 9-0 M Canter 6
BAPA ALSALAMI Sustain 8-9 A Garler 6
SANU SEA C Wall 8-9 A Callerre 2

4.50 BBC RADIO YORK PRO-AM LADIES HANDICAP (£2,986: 1m) (20)

4-1 Palet B Black, 5-1 Combine Juny 7-1 Deput Gem. 8-1 Maryama Kanhidotmicze, 10-1 Squared Juny, 12-1 Junyle Fresh, 14-1 olisers

1 019 SREHISTED 231 (R. R.) J Gesche 4-9-1 . . . J Cannal A 2 342 HARBOUR OLES 180 (D. R. F.S.) Laby Harries 4-9-1 W Ryan S 3 50-0 LEBAL RESPT 28 (B.G.) P Chaple-Ham 4-9-1 . B North (S) 1 4 400 STAR SELECTION 251 (S) 4 Months 6-9-12 . . . J Wants 5 5 206 NALEY SENOR 283 SI American

5.20 vorkshipe cancer research conditions stakes (24,448: 1m 4(60)d) (5)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANCES: P Chapete-Figure, 4 waters; from 7 terrapes; 57 1%, Nr Cacil, 13 terri 33, 29-4%, J Epoden, 15 from 51, 29-4%; M Jahresinn, 17 from 102, 16.7%, M Chapman, 4 from 26, 14-3%. JOCKEYS: O Librino, 5 serious; beam 17 ristes, 29-4%, M Ryan, 15 from 60, 25-0%; Newton, 3 from 13, 23 1%; J Mesour, 19 from 87, 21-8%, G Carter, 10 from 68, 14-3%.

-4 Hankon Durs, 2-1 Germannt, 5-1 Logal Vagila, Star Selection, 16-1 Unites Senti

MARKET RASEN

2.10 Lebedinski. 2.45 Moobekkr. 3.15 Daring Past. 3.50 Imperial Vintage, 4.25 Talethath. 5.00 Highbeath. 5.30 Siren Song.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

2.10 APRIL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,937: 2m 1i 110yd) (17 runners)

7-2 Our Robert, 9-2 Boll Land, 5-1 Street, 7-1 Evenie Polin, 8-1 Jan Man, 10-1 Tangan, Mr Bold, 12-1 Sunnier Villa, Labedinski, 14-1 others.

2.45 GET AWAY FROM THE ELECTION HANDICAP HURDLE (12,273: 2m 5(110yd) (18)

6-1 Amering Sul, 7-1 Doesto, Th It in, 8-1 Cash Box, Harcock, 9-1 Cambo, 16-1 Modinistr, 72-7 Ajdar, Sheltov Aldery, 74-7 ethers.

3.15 UK HYGIENE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,209: 2m 1l 110yd) (7)

1 F-25 DARBING PAST 9 # S.R) M Household 7-11-10 ... R Glanday
2 4231 TAPATCH 22 (B.F.R) M Household 7-11-10 ... R Johnson (A)
3 6334 REVE DE VALSE 14 (D.F.G.S) R Johnson 10-11-0 ... K Johnson
4 041P RAFLOWAC 109 (F) S Concineda 11-10-4 ... F Permit
5 2943 COPPER CABLE 25 C Smith 10-10-1 ... R Rangon
5 85HJ DASH 107 THE PURCH 22 K Margan 5-10-0 ... W Marylon
7 0U-P BALL TEINERS 12 J Wharton 6-10-0 ... F Looky (S) 2-1 Damig Paul, 3-1 Tagatch, 9-2 Rose its Valon, 7-1 Bish To The Planne, 8-1 Dayon Callin, Radonck, 53-7 Ball Tombs.

3.50 EUROBALE NOVICES CHASE (£3,910: 2m 4f) (6)

1 14F1 IMPERIAL VINTAGE 17 (D.F.G.) Man V Williams 7-11-12

Air R Thomson (2)

2 F13V AISTER ONLIN 26 (C.D.BF.F.G..5) W Williams 8-11-12 W Marson
3 PPF3 CANCINAL SIMER St J Minc 8-11-2 ... 3 Storey
4 USAN CHAPPLICE 5 (B.E.S.) May E Humb 7-11-2 ... 3 Stages
5 SSFF WOODS SCHAME 26 G Hubber 9-11-2 ... P Humb (2)
6 GOOZ (DOWLES PATROL 26 J Upon 5-18-8 ... R Supplie 11-8 Mister Chare, 6-4 Imperial Virtuge, 4-7 Missis Soluto, 18-1 admis

4.25 SANDERSON TELEPORTERS NOVICES HURDLE (£3,157: 2m 3f 110yd) (16)

| PURPORE (E.3, 157: 2nn 3f 110yd) (16)

1 2147 TALATHANTH 10 (E.9) 0 Nicholand 5-11-12 bit R Thomson (2)
2 8840 DONNEGALE 33 Y Tate 5-11-0 J. Callaghan
3 05-4 60F9Y 6EOF 25 G Habbard 6-11-0 J. L. Appell (3)
4 0562 LAPKSHEL 40 J FEYBRAID 6-11-0 F. Lenhy (3)
5 36-4 64-FYVE 26 (F.5) Namid Thompson 4-11-0 D Pretis
6 P.4P MOOR DANCE MAN 102 N Literadom 7-21-0 D Pretis
7 P.4-4 18BAAL 64 (3) G Barnet 7-11-0 X Aspatra (5)
8 0608 BELLDUAM 39 A Jessop 5-10-9 T. X Aspatra (5)
8 0608 BELLDUAM 39 A Jessop 5-10-9 T. Kent
9 CAM SHE CAM CAM 301F C Such 5-10-9 T. Kent
11 4003 PARSA DALLAM 7 (F) J Wharba 7-28-9 A S Smith
11 4003 PARSA DALLAM 7 (F) J Wharba 7-28-9 T. Scholan
10 0-5 SPENISPELD NYME 473 5 Bollings 6-10-0 K Spanis
10 10-5 TELANYS RYTURE 25 0 Revenum 6-10-9 T. M Berman
11 PAPPETUM PROMOCE DJ JA Herris 4-18-7 J. Suppli
15 50 APACHE LEN 9 M Hintermod 4-18-7 R Garnity
16 44 MAZAMET 91 0 O'Theil 4-18-7 R Garnity
16 1-1 Labatah 7-2 Labatah 8-1 Manered 10-1 Ging Goot, 12-1 M4-Fent 11-19 Tabilish, 7-2 Labald, 5-1 Maneut, 10-1 Eljay Gott, 12-1 M-1-Fun, Teolog's Foliare, 14-1 Popoy's Determ, 16-1 offers.

5.00 TONY EDWARDS & GEOFF HUNTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,300: 2m 4l) (10)

1 2153 SERVIC LIST SE (LF.S.S.) D Michigan 6-11-13. 16'R Bondo 3-1 Marry Pecte, 7-2 Shinery Light, 4-1 Finestic Afr. 5-1 Highbooth, 7-1 Cores Caurren, 12-1 Bally Parsan, 16-1 Wasss

5.30 SPRING STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT PLACE (£1,403: 1m 5f 110yd) (20)

PANCE (C1.403: 1m 5/110yd) (20)

1 11-2 SIREN SONG 7 (G) C alone 6-12-9

2 ANSRY MATNE J Wate 5-17-4

3 DURLE STAR 25-11-4

3 DURLE STAR 25-11-4

3 DURLE STAR 25-11-4

4 3 DURLE STAR 25-11-4

5 MeW ROSS O THAIR 3-11-4

6 SPANSIN SCRET N Limitation 5-11-4

5 MeW ROSS O THAIR 3-11-4

6 Mew ROSS O THAIR 3-11-4

7 GF-6 CAMERINOUSE LADY 2P R Provider 6-10-13. In Reset MADDE W Harpt 5-10-13

8 MADDE W Harpt 5-10-13

8 SINCE F MICHAEL AND 2P R BROWING F-10-13. In Reset MADDE W Harpt 5-10-13

10 PARCOTEN PRINCE DAY 2P R Provider 6-10-13. In Reset MADDE W Harpt 5-10-13

11 PARCOTEN PRINCE DAY 2P R F-10-13

12 RECORDER F MICHAEL A-10-12

13 SINCE LUTTE BRIAR G Browny 6-10-13

14 RESED FR PER PRINCE W MASE F House 4-10-12

15 RECORDERS MICHAEL A-10-12

16 BRED FOR PER SUME W Communicum 4-10-2

17 30 CAPSOFF 26 6 Hobbert 4-10-7

18 CAPSOFF 26 6 Hobbert 4-10-7

19 HOMEYSUCKE ROSE I Unput Mich 10-1 Chees

20 LIME ARA the A Respirice 4-10-7

10 PER STAR 25 Hose A RES

Ganay draws Helissio

HELISSIO and Pilsudski, the first two in last October's Forte Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, clash in the first European group one race of the season, the Prix Ganay, at

Longchamp tomorrow.

Helissio, withdrawn from the Dubai World Cup at the last minute because of wet conditions, last raced when dead-heating for third with Strategic Choice in the Japan Cup in Tokyo on November 24. Olivier Peslier will again

partner the Elie Lellouche-

trained colt, but Michael Kinane takes over from Waiter Swinburn aboard the Michael Stoute-trained Pilsudski, who won the Breeders' Cup Turf at Toronto.

(George Duffield).

Sandown Park

Junora, 29 Fael Tampo (4th), Universal Lady, 33 Blemey Park, Flest Lady, 40 Athon Deam, 15 ran 21, 241, 43, bd, 244, R Hamnon at East Everleigh, Tota 52 90; 51,80, 52,90, 58,00 DF: £71,10, Trio: £712,40 CBF, 536,76

2.35 (1)m 14yd) 1, ROMANOV (J Flext, 7-2); 2, Harry Wolton (W Ryen, 12-1), 3, Korril Phil Eddery, 2-1 fayl, ALSO RAN; 100-30 catajornne (Str), 7-2 Millery (4th), 12 Casenaway Bay (8th), 8 ran, NR; Debert Hortson, Nx, 5, ra, 134, 134, P Chapple Hyern at Marton, Tote (2,10); 12 80, 23,50. DF 228,60 CSF, 235,60

Theset £315.56.
4.10 (Im 14yd) 1, 6TAR TALENT (R Cochrane, 10-1), 2, 6km Me A Ring (D McNeown, 11-1); 3, 8km Menuger (T Cuinn, 7-1); ALSO RAN 6-4 lay Almane (4h), 11-3 Sumara, 9 Night Dance, 10 Rains (6th), 11 Portions, 14 Stone Ridge (5th), Welkes, 16 Night Wick, 25 Amber Fort, Therine, 33 Parer Noster 14 ran, 14, 5th Ind. 44, 294, 9), 1 Belding at Kingsciere Tote: £12.40; £2.90. ELITI, £2.20. DF 247.50. The 255.50 CSF C11.51 Thosas £734.57

Perth

Going: good 2.10 (2m.) 1 Dyd hdle) 1, BRECON (P. Niven, 7-4 tav); 2, Sadder's Realm (G Tormey, 4-1); 3, Doubles Agent (P. Carbeny, 3-1) ALSO FAN: 13-2 Gold Of Araba, 15-2 Phidly Far-dity, 50 Political Mandate (6th), Thornton, House (5th), 7 van. 41, sh. Ind. 12, 51, 51, W Mar at Lamboum, Totar (22.40; 51.90, 52.80 DF-52-40, CSF 57.82 DF- D2-80 CSF 127.82

2.46 (2m st 10yd hale) 1. FALLELSE-FALLS (W Dowlard, 7-2 tax), 2. Sandrift (F Leshy, 10-1); 3. Skanse Pilver (R Burns, 20-1). 4. Exames City (G Lee, 6-1); 4. Exames City (G Lee, 6-1); 4. Exames City (G Lee, 6-1); 4. Exames City (E Lee, 1-1); 5. Exames Cit

133 SU CSF C3353 INCOSE DESCRIP 3.16 (3m ch) 1, UNGUIDED MISSILE (R Durwoody, 1-5 km/, 2, Rectory Gerden (P Centeury, 5-1), 3. Temple Gearth (R Supple, 14-1), ALSO RAN, 100 Snook Pont (pu), 4 ren, 134, diel G Richerds at Greystoke Tolec £1.20 UP: £1.40 CSF, £1.63.

SPECIALISTS

MARISET RASEN: Trainers: C Marin, 5 wirners from 11 runners, 45.6%, M Wildinson, 4 hrom 14, 26.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 24 from 97, 24.7%, P Beaumont, 13 from 57, 22.8%. D Nicholson, 5 from 22, 22.7%; R Dickin, 4 from 21.19.0%. Jockeys: Mr S Swers, 3 winners from 5 rides, 50.0%, J Culloy, 5 from 21, 28.6%, Mr C Borner, 3 hrom 11, 27.8%, L Wyer, 19 from 110, 17.3%; F Leahy, 8 from 49, 16.3%; A S Smith, 19 from 139, 13.7%.

The other British-trained runners are the Paul Coletrained Strategic Choice (Richard Quinn) and Mark Prescott's Last Second

On the same card, Peter Chapple-Hyam saddles Heron Island (Kinane) for the group three Prix Barbeville.

ES.70, E9.70, UR: E211 SU (100 rac man, good of £397.39 carried ipregated to 3.35 at Leachster today), CSF, £125.16 Thoust £2,176.31

122,176 31
4.30 Cm 41 110 yd ch'i 1, MALTA MAN (A S Smith, 7-11, 2, Solomon's Denoer (R Dunwoody, 2-9 Isw); 3, Whalle Court (C O Hars, 65-11), ALSO RAN; 8 Tail Measure (bu) 4 ren. 244. dat P Cheesbrouch at Berhop Audkland

Bathop Auditants. Tote. 53.70 Dr. 127 00 CSF 28 8

4.58 (2m 110 of flat) 1, LORD PODIGSIG (G. Carlill, 3-1 lavi); 2, Time Warrior (N Hannily, 14-1); 3, Wetterwood (E. Caisonan, 16-1) ALSO RAN: 4 Crystal Jevel, Trouble Ahaad (2ft), 9-2 Taric Sale (4ft), 10 Garresia Manager, 14 Run Fox The Mill, 20 Relayments Boy (6th), 25 Junper Hill, 100 Meggre Scott, The True Miller, 200 Non Non Jossephine, 13 ran; 3, 294, 3, 5, nd. P. Morrisch at Roseword Toure: 24 30: 52.00, 24 00, 54 70 DF 183.50 Tro. 2209.30, CSF 244 00 DF 183.50 Tro. 2209.30, CSF 244 00 DF 183.50 Tro. 2209.30, CSF 244 00 DF 283.50 Tro. 2209.30 CSF 244 00 DF 283.50 Tro. 2209.24 (200), Touris Miller (

Plecepot £2,545,90. Quadpot: £508,30.

Gentry good, good to firm in places 2.20 (51) 1, Timelasper (M Fenton, 4-6 (av), 2, Prz. Stor (20-1), 3, Oh Never Again (9-4) 8 ran, NR, Malazza 21, 1141 M Bell Tote E1.20 (E1.0), E3.80, E1.80 DF E12.50 Tro £10.60, CSF: £20 14

250,00. CSP (2014) 2,55 (8) 206,01 1. High Fremlum (R Winston, 7-2), 2. Bracture Gold (3-1 lay), 3, Kerno Sabo (10-1) 13 tan, Ni, 1½ I R Fahey Icla: C4 80, 12-20, C1, 30, C2 90, DF 125,80 Trix: (2-40 00 CSF, 113,24

100. 24 UL ST. V13.24 2.85 (71.214yd) 1. Thatchard (P Pessey, 10-1), 2. Challing (16-1); 3. Smarrer Charler (7-6-4), 4. Challing (16-1); 3. Smarrer Charler (7-6-6), 4. Charles (16-6), 5. Charles (16-6),

4.00 (1m 4f) 1 Polyphony (D Hanson, 7-3), 2, Rare Talent (5-1); 3, Indigo Dawn (15-8 fart), 7 am. 1 4d, 6t, R Charlton Tore £2 60, £2 30, £1.30 DF: £10.40, CSF, £18 73

2.30 (2130 PE 20.40, Canol. 11-4) 4.30 (1m 4h) 1, Little Actom (J Canol. 11-4) 2, Night Mirace (P-4 tev), 3, Anseq (16-1) 8 ran 5, 1-4 S Williams You: C3 60, C1 50, C1.10, C3 10 DF ES 00, CSF, 29.20, Trease: C77.55.

E77.55.
5.05 [61 207yd] 1, Grey Kingdom [D]
Memagh, 11-4 (t-lev Priveta Handicapper's
top raing), 2. Arron (2-1), 3. Winter Scout
(18-1), 4. Kid Ony (20-1), Shafi 11-4 (t-tay 19
ran, 4), h. M Britani, Tope (2-80), 22-20

Placepot £15.70. Quadpot £15.90.

Carlisla

TESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Going: good to film, good in places 2.05 56 Byd) 1, DAUNTING LADY (Pot Eddery, 100-30 key), 2, Phone Alex (Dane D'Nell, 12-1); 3, Bilent Pride M Roberts, 25-11 ALSO RAN 5 Mess Hit, 6 Fayran, 8 Sun In The Morrung (5th), 9 Less's Pride, 10 Passy Cutsyth (6th), 12 Shelbbella, 20 Tundra, 25 Rest Terroo (4th), Mineraci

Hyern at Monton. 10th 12.00; 12.50; 13.50. OP 228.00; CSF. 23.50.

3.10 (1m 14yd) 1. WDDM (Pat Eddery, 5-1); 2. Pinst letand (M Halt, 5-6 fax); 3. Bin Roate (T Cusns, 6-1). ALSO PAN: B Beauchamptong (Bih), 14 Centre Statis, 33 Gothenberg (Hh), Royal Philosophers, 40 Actsame (Sth. 8 int. Hd. NJ, eth. hd. NJ, eth. R. R. Charleon at Bacdrampton. Tole. 15 50; £1.20, £1.30, £1.30, £1.40. DF £3.80 CSF: £2.25.

3.40 (Sin 76yd) 1. £TTEPBY PARK (J Weever, 9-2), 2. Jameloan Plight (J Fortume, 9-1); 3. Soojema (S Drowns, 9-1); ALSO PAN. 7-2 law Unchanged, 9-2 Northern Fleet (Ht), Shedisherin (Bin), 12 Colondop (Sth.), Sherid 8 ran. 2-b1. 6, 2-b1, 2-b1. ALSO PAN. 2-20, £1.80. DF £28.60, CSF. £38.37 Thumst (315.55).

ELEM, (2.20. DF EA7 60, The 185 60 CSF C114 51 Timuss C 194 57

4.46 (Im 21 7yd) 1. UKRAINE VENTURE (W Rym. 13-2); 2. Alouball (Pat Eddery, 100-30 tol.), 3. Go For Saft JL Reid, 4-1) ALSO RAN-11-2 Leading Note (Sh), 6. Shouk (Ln), 8. Cuest For Best, 12 La Cuarmaidi (Bh), 14 Delmay, 16 Altendargo, 25 Book Al Bedsime (40), 5 Bind-6-4. 11 tim. NF; Book) Democratio, 5 Bind-6-4. 11 tim. NF; Book) Democratio, 16 Bind-6-4. 11 tim. NF; Book (Brown Lote, 57 Bo), C2 00, C1 60, C2 10 DF, C10.40 Trior, E18 90. CSF E27.85

5.20 (Sil Syd) 1, GONE SAVAGE STOCKER, 6-11; 2. Libertury Booksity (S Sanciers, 6-11; 3. Broadstains Beauty (K Fabon, 5-1], 4. Eleman Prophet: Paud Eddery, 7-1) ALSO RAN: 4-1 tay Ellens Lad (Bhy), 11 Clm Bom Both, 12 Postite (Sh), Splicing, 14 Half Torre, Mr Bergersc, 16 Langwick Lad, Lord High Admiral, Ridit, 20 High Doman, 25 Sweet Megor, 30 Dender Fiyer Mindrace 17 ren. 141, 41, 191, 31, 11. W Misson an Newmarket Cae, E35 80 Trio C43 90, C5F 600 90 Trionat E226 97 Jackpott: E6, 454.50.

Jackpot: £6,454.50.
Placepot: £48.70. Clustipot: £9.30.

Ascot Scing: good to firm, good in places
5.30 (3m 110)(cl.ch) 1, Garrylough (Mr C
Bornet, 6-1), 2, Drumcullen (10-1); 3,
Lamstown Lady (20-1), Mefrirs Dream 11-4
tw. 11 ran. NR Nevada Gold 2, 51 D
Gardolfo, Tota: 55,50, 51 70, 52 20, 55 40
DF 524,60 Thor \$105.00 CSF 553.38
Tricas: 5353.57. (mass: 1363.57. 8.00 (2m 110yd hdie) 1, Monnais Forte (I. Aspel, 8.11. 2, Darakshan (4-1) 3, Markin (12-1) Serious 5-2 Iav 9 ran, 1141, hd. J Adam, Tota: 08.40; 02.10, 02.10, 02.50 DF 023.80, Trio: 058.20 CSF: 037.06, Tricast 0251.07. Ludlow

Going: good to firm Source (Co.) Themse Arams (D. Welsh, 8-15 Izw); 2, Daydlesm Belacver (20-1), 3, Withenay (7-1), 11 ran. 61, 31 M. Pipe. Tota, 51.40; 51.20, 54.30; 51.70 OF: C13.70 Trib. 525.50. CSF 515.57 6.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, Oute A Man (C Maude, 4-6 tav), 2, Herbert Buchanan (6-4), 3, Houghton (8-1) 4 ran, 16(, 25), S Brookshaw Tote £1 40 DF, £1,10, CSF, £2 12

Colorg: tim. good to fem in places 8.35 (2m 3l 110yd hdie) 1, Alth Cheannaighe Mr J Julies, 4-8 fast), 2, Gi Moss (7-1), 3, hish Domenion (14-1) 5 ran, NR, impensi Honors, 111, 131, J Nemile, Tote, 51 40 E1 30, 52 80 DF 52 40 CSF, 55 08 E.05 (2m 3l 110yd hdic) 1. Fleet Cadet (G Supple, 3-1 lan); 2. Just For A Reason (6-1), 3. Against the Clock (7-2, 9 m-7, 14, M, Pipe, Tote: £3.10, £1.50, £2.20, £1.60 DF-£10.60 Two: £3.20, CSF £20.06 Treasr £58.74

enough. some movement in the heav-

crippled by hard ground.

THE CESTER !

2,00 Knotty Hill, 2,30 Monopoly, 3,00 Mutaberl, 3,30 Premier Generation, 4,05 Ramooz, 4,35 Doc Ryan's, 5,05 Machiavelli, 5,35 Rocky Ossis,

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 HAPPY MINSTRAL. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.05 Tanaasa.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP (£3,900: 5l 218yd) (17 runners) (2) 3-00 PUSEY STREET GAL 10 (6) M Booley 4-10-0

2 (10) 26-R SALORMATE 57 (CD.8.5) 5 Bowning 6-9-8 9 Windster 92 3 (B) 3-00 JO MELL 26 (G) T Excent 4-9-9 . M Birch 98 (D) 30-0 LA PETITE FLISTE 35 (D,F,G,S) R O'Sulvent 6-9-8 (3) 0-00 IOLDEE LAD 22 ICD F.O) A Jones 7-9-7 T Spraku (5) 95 (17) 000- MISTER JOLSON 244 (O.F.G.S.) R Hodges 8-8-4 9 (7/) UUU- MESTER JOLSUN 244 (U.F.E.S) IT TROOPS 3-9-4 S Drowns 90 (4) 3-06 WEETMAKE WEIGH 28 (CO.F.E.S) IT Holinstead 4-9-3

9-2 Ougs, 5-1 Matternia, 10-1 Pucay Street Girl, La Pebbe Fusion, 12-1 Matter Voltage, Friendly Brane 16-1 others. \$ 2:30 EBF WILLOUGHBY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

A Stack 25
M Ferting M Wigners
R Perham G A Cant.
W I Gronnor M Roberts J Ouken 93
T Sprakes T Sprakes C Butter D Harrison R Cochrant S Crowner D Biggs ort 18-1 Oue Massies - Zu (2-Y-0: £2,878: 5) 2yd) (16) 92,878: 51 2yd) (16)
8 ARM ARD A LEE 23 C Dwyn 9-0.
BLIE DESERT M Bell 9-0.
BOLERO KID M W Except 9-0
2 KENNET 8 P Control 9-0
1 CATIN BAY 28 P Harms 9-0.
LOBILSHE R Harmon 9-0.
3 CLIZ MASTER 17 E Whymes 9-0
RIZEN B Patting 9-0
CINDER HILLS M W Exsisting 9-0
CINDER HILLS M W Exsisting 8-9
LIERALES C Charles-Jones 8-9
MARK-BLA J Arnold 8-9
5 POSSTIPE-ARR 8 B MAKARBON 8-9
SECRET TANGO A Jones 8-9
AL MORRONN 5-1 Memmel, 8-1 Ghost Desert, 78-7 3-1 Laberche, 4-1 Monopoly 5-1 Neurel, 6-1 Grun Desert, 18-1 Que Missie, Zig Zig, 14-1 opters,

3.00 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP

(3-Y-0: £5,678: 1m 3f 183yd) (9) 3-Y-U: E3,678: TIM 3f 183yd1 (9)

(3) 45-0 RECOURSE 11 H Cedl 9-7

(5) 21-2 HAPPY MINSTRAL 3 (P) M. Jahrston 9-7

(7) 35-3 ORMN ASSURED 28 C British 9-5

(7) 91- HEMEY 155 (6) D. Loure 9-5

(8) 30-3 MILTABARS 9 D Mortey 9-5

(1) 10-1 TASS CHAM 3 (10,6) P Cole 8-12

(2) 31G SWALLOW BREEZ 175 (F) J Scraph 8-9

(4) 15-0 CERTARN MASSC 26 (5) W Mor 8-4

(4) 15-0 CERTARN MASSC 26 (5) W Mor 8-4

(5) 306- VENETIAN SCENE 160 P Cole 8-3

(6) 306- VENETIAN SCENE 160 P Cole 8-3

(7) 306- VENETIAN SCENE 160 P Cole 8-3 3-1 Happy Manstral, 100-30 Henley, 11-2 Recourse, 6-1 Drive Assured, Tasis Chan, 7-1 Manstran, 8-1 Swelfor Breeze, 16-1 others

3.35 TOTE TRIO HANDICAP

18 (2) -311 PENDOLNIO 10 (D.F.G) M Britism 6-8-7 ... 6 Bardonio 95
17 (9) AS- COURAGEOUS KIGHT 21.J (F) F Fergund 8-8-6 ... W.J D'Commit
18 (17) 4440 ARZAM 16 (D.G.) O Compross 6-8-6 N HBs 93
19 (13) 340- AURELIAN 172 M Bell 5-8-5 ... M Fentas 95 5-1 Moré Trai, 6-1 Father Dan. 7-1 Mone Lady. Pandadho, 8-1 Handah, 18-1 South Eazlem Fred. 12-1 others

4.05 TOTE LEICESTERSHIRE STAKES (Listed race: £10,964: 71 9yd) (10)

| SIEU ILLC, Z. 10, 307, 1 10 yr 1 10

4.35 TOTE CREDIT HANDICAP

(3-Y-0: £4,123: 1m 8yd) (19)

6-1 July Jectson, 8-1 Wild Siry 19-1 Person Fund Callies, 12-1 others. 5.05 REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES

(Div I: £3,573: 1m 1f 218yd) (16) E3.573: 16th If 218yd] (16)

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COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: D Lodes, 7 whrees from 18 names, 38.9%, N Cecil, 19 from 70 J7 1%; P Mislar, 5 from 22 22 7%, M Storre, 73 from 58, 22.4%, J Gooden, 13 from 64, 20.3%, 5 Bourrag, 5 from 25, 20.0%, IGKSYS: J Stack, 6 services from 27 nates, 22.2%, 5 Sanders, 6 from 36 16 7%, F Lynch, 6 from 42 14.3%; C Rufter 8 from 61, 13.1%, A Class, 7 from 61, 11.5%, D Morkand, 7 from 63, 11.1%.

Wasps acknowledge debt to unsung pack heroes



By David Hands RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF WASPS clinch their second Courage Clubs Championship title this afternoon, it is not just the obvious candidates who will merit the applause. Equally deserving are the unsung senior servants. Mike White and Matt Greenwood. Amateur or professional, no club functions without such players, whose qualities are appreciated most by those who play alongside them.

Both had something to do with Wasps' previous triumph, in 1990: White, now 30, played in the back row of the side that beat Saracens on the same April day that Greenwood, 32, then a No 8, helped Nottingham to beat Gloucester, and so allowed Wasps to come up on the rail.

"It will be nice when guys like Buster [White] and Matt get the reward they deserve," Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, said

It is Northampton who stand in the way of Wasps' first bite at the league title cherry: they require no more than a draw - either from the game at Franklin's Gardens today or, next Saturday, against Harlequins at The Stoop — to bring the silverware to Sudbury, or Loftus Road (where they will play all their matches next season) or wherever their trophy cabinet now dwells. Moreover, Dallaglio takes a sardonic pleasure in noting that he is the only Lion-inwaiting at Wasps, while Northamp-

White is a very underestimated player and he's part of an excellent back-row unit." Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said. So underestimated that not once has he played in the England A team; Greenwood at least enjoyed 13 appearances, mostly on tour in New Zealand and Canada, with the national second string before moving from the Midlands to London and

earned the respect of the young Turks at Wasps, who underpin the flashier exploits of the Greenstocks and Logans and have helped Chris Sheasby to national recognition this season. But they, in turn, will acknowledge the contribution of another old Wasp, Gareth Rees, this season. Rees played in the 1986 cup final as a teenager before continuing his peripatetic career in Canada, France and Wales, before the wheel turned full circle.

Rees has been very important to Wasps, keeping the momentum going when perhaps there has not been great momentum in their rugby." McGeechan said with feeling, since he may recall the six penalty goals kicked by the Canadian which beat Northampton 18-13 at Loftus Road just after Christmas. But Rees also offers the experience from full back which points others in the right direction at critical moments.

Andy Gomersall returns at scrum

It is players such as these who have half for Wasps against Matt Dawson, who leads Northampton in the continued absence, with a neck injury, of Tim Rodber. But Paul Gravson, the England stand-off half, continues to rest the hip injury that has kept him out of action for seven weeks: McGeechan, who reckons he has only seven fit backs to throw into the fray (though four of them have been, or will be, British Lions), plays Alistair Hepher at No 10 and hopes to restore Grayson in one of the club's

two games next week. Harlequins are the only team to have won at Franklin's Gardens in the league this season. This afternoon, they entertain second-placed Leicester, who restore Joel Stransky at stand-off and give young Lewis Moody a run at blind-side flanker.

Harlequins include Dominic Chapman on one wing and Daren O'Leary, who will now travel to Argentina with England next month. on the other, but the national selectors will continue to review their Lions will make demands on them and that John Fowler, of Sale, is a possible withdrawal.

Fowler, who has damaged cruciate and medial ligaments, will miss the Pilkington Cup final on May 10 and has little prospect of being fit in time to tour, hence an England presence at Coventry's match with Bedford today, where the form of Dan Grewoock in the second row will be monitored. But Fowler is only one of eight Sale players struggling with injuries and a squad of 30 travels to Bath with selection postponed until this morning.

West Hartlepool, doomed to relegation, have appointed Mike Brewer as their director of rugby after the dismissal of Mark Ring earlier this week. Brewer, the former Canter-bury and New Zealand back row forward, has been assisting Brian Ashton with Ireland this season and will take up his new position in time for the next campaign.



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Stransky, back for Leicester

Jarvis can prepare foundations for future prosperity

AMONG the ruins of Cardiff Arms Park, as the old ground makes way for the new. Cardiff and Swansea will play out what is positively the last rugby match at the old stadium this afternoon. But, before turns to rubble, a little quibble should have an airing.
With the turi and all the

rounds and scored 64 points. other nicknacks going under the auctioneer's hammer this weekend, one would hope that the powers that be might care to hang on to the talismanic name and not adopt something so blandly unexpressive. anonymous, and, in these days of commercial imperatives, totally unbrandable appellation as the Millennium

Although I suffer my share of it, this is not simply senti-ment. Who, in the 1999 World Cup, will want to buy a T-shirt with the utterly unemblematic "Millennium Stadium" stamped on it? Wembley, too, will soon change, but the name, quite rightly, will not it reverberates throughout the sporting world, as does Carditt's temple to rugby. An inspiration to poetry not a

At any rate, it would be marvellous to think that Lee Jarvis, 20, at stand-off half for Cardiff today, may get to pursue his ambitions and. when the day comes, to display his precocious gifts in the Wales jersey at no place other than the Arms Park. In this. the 26th year of the cup competition, the young player is likely to play a vital role.

most part, he has had to play second fiddle to Jonathan Davies, and has consequently been unable to appear in the first-team colours every weekend, Jarvis has managed to accumulate 144 league points. Some 129 of these have come from his right boot. He has played, in one position or another, in all four of the cup

He has been in top form of late. While Robert Howley stole the headlines with three tries, Jarvis collected 16 of Cardiff's 36 points in their semi-final against Llanelli. It seemed hardly to matter to

TEAMS

him that the six successful chances he had at goal were from various distances and H Was self-assured kicking of the highest order.

Swansea will be looking for much the same from Aled Williams, who has been chosen ahead of Arwel Thomas at stand-off half. Thomas, who resumed playing only last weekend after a two-month absence with a knee-ligament injury, is not fully recovered. That he played when his team lost to Newbridge, who are at the bottom of the first division. cannot have helped his case

Bunting appointed to refereeing position

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) has appointed Nick development officer, in succession to Steve Griffiths, who is now working for the International Rugby Football Board (David Hands writes).

Bunting, 35 and a former B-grade referee with the East Midlands Society, has proved an imaginative training of-ficer, whose team will be increased when divisional appointments are made for the North and the South West. Colin High, the former international referee, is to manage the development of elite refer-

In the Super 12 match in Christchurch yesterday. Can-

terbury Crusaders inflicted further misery on a depleted Gauteng Lions leam. Gauteng, who lost heavily to Auckland Blues last week. were beaten 23-0 by a Canterbury side that had previously only won twice in the tourna-

Canterbury were indebted to Andrew Mehrtens, the New Zealand stand-off half. whose kicking and defensive work on a soggy Lancaster Park pitch were the most notable features of a frustrat-

ing game.

Hugh McLean, the New Zealand international who cofounded the New Zealand Barbarians, died on Thursday at the age of 89.

Williams, unlike Jarvis, is a mature and canny campaigner who, while he can be a match-winner, can allow his concentration to lapse now and again. With Andy Booth as his partner, and Robert Howley inside Jarvis, both sets of half backs will provide a fascinating contest. More fierce will be what happens in front of them. This season's evidence sug-

gests that both groups of backrow forwards are largely confrontational. However, the inclusion of Gwyn Jones, a true open-side flanker, in the Cardiff line-up hints strongly of something different. He is a support player who enjoys the movement in midfield. With Gibbs and Taylor, for Swan-sea, against Hall and Leigh Davies, this could well prove a congested place.

Swansea have won the cup twice but have been beaten finalists five times. Cardiff have won it six times and failed on the three other occasions that they have gests that Cardiff are more in sure than their opponents.

On the eight occasions that the clubs have met since the competition began, Cardiff have succeeded six times, but the match is closer to call than these statistics would might suggest.
Three of Swansea's final

appearances have come in the past six years, a spell during which they have also won the first division championship twice. All has been achieved under the coaching stewardship of Mike Ruddock.

However, after six years ploughing his furrow in Swansea, Ruddock is now hooking for fresher fields to enhance his rugby coaching credentials. In June, he will be returning to that corner of Dublin whence he emerged in 1991, retracing his steps to Donnybrook, where he once looked after Bective Rangers. There, adjacent to the club facilities, he will set out his stall for Leinster as one of the four provincial coaches employed by the Irish RFU.

"It was time to move," Ruddock said. "There were several reasons which prompted me. After six years. lelt it was time to look for another challenge.

There are some very good players coming through in Swansea. There is a brand new team coming together, a start of a new journey for



New Zealand pay price for slow start

New Zealand ...

By Christopher Irvine

IN THEIR first outing under rugby league's Super League banner, a youthful Australia established their supremacy over a more experienced New Zealand team with a surprisingly comfortable win in this specially-arranged Anzac Dav international, before a disanpointing crowd of 23,829 at the Sydney Football Stadium yesterday.

New Zealand, who whitewashed Great Britain 3-0 in the home series last year. responded strongly after a humiliating first half. In an encouraging international debut. Robbie Paul, the Bradford Bulls captain, came off the bench and contributed one of four second-half tries, but a 20-0 deficit at the break was too great a margin for them to

make up. Australia, with 11 players making first international appearances, dominated the first quarter without scoring. Exploiting New Zealand's poor defence and the hesitancy at stand-off half of Gene Njamu. David Furner, the second-row

forward, and Wendell Sailor, on the left wing, each scored two tries in a devastating 12-minute spell.

Furner burst 35 metres to open Australia's account and crossed again three minutes later. While the Kiwis were trying to recover from that double blow, Sailor scored after good work by Matt

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

TWO days after making his

debut for New Zealand in Sydney, Robbie Paul hopes to

be back in harness for

Bradford Bulls at home to

Sheffield Eagles in the Stones

Although the Buils narrow-

ly maintained their unbeaten

league record against Halifax Blue Sox in midweek, they

badly missed Paul's creativ-

ity. His two late tries rescued

them against Paris Saint-

Germain in France a week

ago, when the Bulls were far

from convincing. Importantly, they are winning while

playing well below par.

League tomorrow

ward, and again ripped through flimsy New Zealand tackling five minutes later. The Kiwis fought back spir

itedly with early second-half tries by Stacey Jones and Daryl Halligan, before Australia surged ahead once more. Allan Langer opened up a gap for Darren Smith and then Craig Gower crossed to Adamson, a replacement for make it 34-12. Tries at the end

If Paul is up to participat-

ing, the Bradford side will

closely resemble the line-up

for the Silk Cut Challenge

Cup final at Wembley next Saturday. Sonny Nickle is

still carrying an arm injury.

and hopes to prove his fitness.

Stuart Spruce and Paul Med-

McDermott to the pack, after

St Helens's last outing be-

fore Wembley is at Antield where they will be seeking to

avoid further injuries and

inflict a ninth consecutive

defeat on the bottom club,

the in-form teams, London Broncos and Leeds Rhinos,

The confrontation between

Castleford Tigers.

four-match suspension.

return, as does Brian

spared New Zealand greater embarrassment.

Frank Endacon, the New Zealand coach, blamed his team's first-half performance for ultimate defeat. "The Australians had a very low error rate and ours was far too high, particularly in the first half," Endacon said.

New Zealand gained some

will determine which of them

is best equipped to take up the

pursuit of Bradford and St

Helens. London have opted

for experience in recalling

Tony Mestrov, Rob Beaziey

and Steve Rosolen and an

unchanged Leeds side means

an intriguing contest at half

back between lestyn Harris

Oldham Bears, without a

coach after Andy Goodway's

dismissal, will look to profit

from the injury problems Halifax sustained at Brad-

ford. For their home game

against Paris, Warrington Wolves have brought in Chris

Rudd, Salesi Finau and John

Hough, who was put on the

transfer list last month.

and Shaun Edwards.

SCORERS: Australia: Trias: Furner (2), Suitor (2), Smith, Gower, Goals: Girdler (5) New Zealand: Trias: Jones, Heitigen, Paul, Hoppe, Goals: Heiligen (3), Hoppe, Goals: Heiligen (3), AUSTRALIA: D. Peschwy, K. Negas, A. Ettingshausen, R. Girdler, W. Selior, I. Deley (capitaln), A. Langer, G. Lezzaus, C. Gower, R. Howe, D. Furner, B. Thorn, D. Smith, Subestautes: P. Green, J. O'Nelli, M. Adamson, S. Hatmoro. Paul returns to home front

NEW ZEALAND: R Barnett: S Hoppe, F Wile, J Timu, D Halligan; G Ngarriu, S Jones; G Young, S Eru, Q Pongle, A Iro, S Kearney (captain), T Midu, Subethuliae: . Vagana, T Smith, T Ropoth, R Paul. Referee: S Cummings (England)

winning the under-19 interna-

David Topliss, the former Great Britain captain and Wakefield Trinity coach, has criticised the increasing number of Australians now playing and coaching in England. Topliss, who lost out this week in the vacancy at Featherstone Rovers to Steve Simms, an Australian, said: There are too many Australians in England and they are

not good for the game, "In the Eighties, we saw the likes of Wally Louis and Mal Meninga. Over the last couple of years there has been an increasing number of Australians who are simply not good enough, I am not bitter about the Featherstone job but it is my opinion that the Australian players and managers here are nothing special."

SWIMMING: TWO-YEAR SUSPENSIONS FOR ANABOLIC STEROID OFFENDERS

China bans four more after drug tests

BY CRAIG LORD

CHINA has reported another four positive drug tests among its swimmers, taking to 23 the number of Chinese to have been suspended from the sport this - decade. The circumstances of the tests mean, however, that China as a nation will not be suspended for two years, as might have happened.

Nor will the guilty four, three of whom failed anabolic steroid tests and one of whom had an illegally high testosterone/ epitestosterone (T/E) ratio, serve fouryear suspensions because the infringements were committed shortly before the four-year rule came into force last year.

One man and three women, all ranked outside the top 30 in the world and therefore not national team members. have been suspended for two years after testing positive at the national championships in January 1996, according to a ships in Gothenburg last week after a their own federation.

report from the Chinese swimming federation sent to Fina, the international governing body, in February this year. Three coaches have also been suspended for two years.

The delay was said to be "normal". given the procedure of testing and subsequent appeals. Cornel Marculescu. the Fina director, said: "Nations are now obliged to report positive tests. China has done that. They are fighting against drugs there and are taking action themselves. Six months to a year is a normal reporting period given the decision, the analysis

and the procedure of appeal." The T/E ratio infringement was committed by the male swimmer. Lu Qiang, while the women. Yu Ran. Pu Shi and Chen Jialin, were suspended for having

taken an anabolic steroid. The news follows China's return to form at the world short-course champion-

year. At the 1904 Asian Games, seven Chinese swimmers tested positive for anabolic steroids a month after the world championships in Rome, Two world champions. Yang Aihua and Lu Bin, were among those suspended for two years.

According to rules agreed at the Fina congress at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, a whole nation will be suspended from all international competition for two years if four of its swimmers test positive for anabolic steroids within a 12-month period.

However, a loophole, designed to provide national federations with an incentive to test swimmers and report violations, states that the nation will not be suspended if it reports positive tests of its own accord. The whole-nation ban applies only if Fina drug-testers catch the culprits, but not if they are detected by SAILING: TURNER PAINTS ATTRACTIVE PICTURE OF SINGLE-HANDED VENTURE

Britons to ride on crest of new wave

BY EDWARD GORMAN SALLING CORRESPONDENT

MARK TURNER has done his fair share of top-level ocean racing. There was a Whitbread Round the World Race at the age of 22, five round Britain races, a twohanded transptlantic race and a round Europe race. So far, though, he has never tasted the challenge — or the loneliness — of long-distance single-handed racing.

in September he will fill that gap in his CV when he sets off from Brest on the Mini Transat - a single-handed race across the Atlantic that will finish in Martinique 4,200 miles later.

Turner, 29, will be joined on the startline by Ellen MacArthur, a fellow Briton, who made a name for herself in 1995 when she was made BT young sailor of the year after becoming the youngest person to sail single-handedly round Great Britain at the age of 17. Their

emergence is a welcome sign that single-handed ocean racing could be back on the increase in this country, buoyed by the heroics of Pete Goss and Tony Bullimore in the Vendee Globe race. Turner bought his "Mini" class yacht

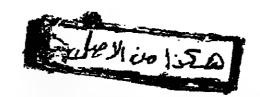
last year and has been preparing it in Hamble, "Right now there is huge interest in single-handed racing," he said. "Even among the rock stars of sailing in Hamble, there is great interest in what I

am doing which has really amazed me." Turner will be up against a predominantly French fleet, led by full-time professionals such as Bernard Stamm, the France-based Swiss, and Thierry Fagnant. There are two or three guys who have the best boats, the best budgets and are very good yachtsmen. If I can get in the top five, I'll be absolutely ecstatic," Turner said yesterday.

The race, which originated in Britain in 1977 but has long-since been taken over by the French, is sailed in powerful monohulis of just 6.5 metres in length. In many respects, they are like pocket Open 60s — the Vendée class — combining unrestricted and innovative sail plans with swing keels, twin rudders, dagger boards and water ballast. There are no engines and communications are restricted to VHF radio. Sailing a "Mini" is all about speed - 14 to 16 knots of it downwind - endurance and discomfort.

Turner and MacArthur have found sponsorship hard to come by. MacArthur has borrowed money from her parents to buy a second-hand boat, while Turner is hoping to secure a deal with the Isle of Wight to use his campaign to promote the

Turner launches his boat in three weeks, after which he will begin his preparation on the water, which will include the Mini Fastnet and the Trans-



FOOTBALL

Rudge leads Vale closer to unlikely port of call

Port Vale, members of the FA Carling Premiership - but fantasy could edge closer to reality tomorrow when they play Wolverhampton Wan-derers at Vale Park, Victory for Vale would keep alive their hopes of a Nationwide League first division play-off place and also finally erase Wolves' chances of automatic promotion into the promised land of

of fines

the Premiership.
Little wonder John Rudge, Vale's genial and long-serving manager, is billing it as the biggest game in the club's history. Though he rarely indulges in pre-match hype, even he is excited about the

"I doubt if we have ever had a more important fixture." he said. "We know we have to take all three points and we'll have to go for it from the off. There will be no holding back. It's bound to be a tremendous



Rudge réspect

occasion and, hopefully, it will also be one that we can

With several of the other tling for position last night, Rudge should go into the goal, game knowing the points total and space is no room for com-

hampton manager, is not usually generous with his praise, but paid tribute to the job Rudge has done in his 13 years at the Potteries club, mostly with only limited funds at his disposal.

"I've got tremendous respect for John and what he's achieved," McGhee said. "He's often had to sell his best players and make a profit on them, but he's still done brilliantly.

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"On the first day of the season, if you'd said Vale would be where there are now.

IT MIGHT sound ridiculous I'd have been surprised, but they've kept getting results all season when people haven't expected them to. They've done really well.

Vale, who won 1-0 at Molineux in October, could again meet Wolves in the playoffs. "That's entirely possible, McGhee said, "and that's why we'd rather not lose this time. We don't want to give them any sort of confidence booster ahead of another possible

Jon McCarthy, the Vale winger, has been given special permission by Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland He will then fly out to Yerevan, where Ireland are playing Armenia in a World Cup qualifying match on Wednes-

Among the numerous promotion and relegation issues at stake, Brighton are likely to attract the most attention, especially if they fail to beat Doncaster Rovers at home in the third division. It is the final match at the Goldstone Ground and could prove Brighton's last game in the league for some time.

"If they lose and Hereford United take a point from their trip to Leyton Orient, Brighton will drop into the Vauxhall Conference. It would also nullify the importance of the clubs' closing fixture of the season on May 4 - against

History and form point to a Brighton win, which would take the issue on to Edgar Street next weekend. Brighton are unbeaten in 12 matches at the Goldstone since Steve Gritt took over as manager. winning eight of their last nine. Doncaster have not won in seven visits to the south coast club, scoring only one

required if they are to finish placency." Gritt said, "A lot of above their play of fivals."

Mark McGbee die Wijser hame form and thinking we hampton manager, is not usu-should win it, but you often get kicked in the teeth in those circumstances. The players are really ready for it and we will go out with the same attitude we have taken into every game."

Dick Knight, who became Brighton's new chairman this week, predicted an emotional day. "It is a new era for the club." he said. "It is the last game at the Goldstone, historic for that reason alone, but it is equally vital in our fight to stay in the league. I'm sure the team can rise to the occasion."



Wilson's intense passion and strong leadership have taken unfashionable Barnsley to the brink of promotion

Wilson inspires dour Barnsley to become leading northern lights

he football aristocra-cy may shudder at the very thought, but but kicked open the gates of the Premiership Bastille, and will soon enjoy their own slice of its lucrative cake. Victory this afternoon against Bradford City will ensure, for the first time in their 110-year history, promotion to the top

The mere mention of Barnsley evokes sepia images of cobbled streets and Skinner Normanton, a postwar anti-hero, It does so because the club has suffered the terrible fate of being less well known than one of its supporters, Michael Parkinson. His stories of Skinner are more widely known than the deeds of the club itself. Barnsley is a solemn town.

a town robbed of the pit shafts from where Normanton was hollered up shafts from and a town that has suffered the worst of the Thatcher years. When they enter the FA Carling Premiership, though. as they surely will, it will be because of dynamism and forward thinking, not a strange historical blip.

It is here that Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager. must stand up and take a bow. A few months ago he was barely a household name in his own house. Now he is recognised as one of the new breed of articulate young managers who have breathed

DANNY WILSON THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By David Maddock

some refreshing life into the game with their passion. It is hard not to see this energy, this single-minded-

ness as the driving force behind Barnsley's rise. Speak to him in his little office modern, 20,000 capacity Oakwell stadium, and he communicates further this leadership ideal. "At a club like Barnsley.

you have to take the fear away," he said. If you can remove that barrier, that fear of the next unknown step. then you can develop - you emerge with a truer picture of what is required. And that has to come from the people at the top. I don't have that fear of failure. I don't fear

being sacked and I have to instil that into my players".

Wilson was born in Wigan of an English father, but his mother is from Derry. His dad, Jim "Tug" Wilson, went to Ireland with the Royal Navy and stayed to marry before they eventually settled back in England. That is how young Wilson became the first player to represent Northern Ireland under the parents qualification.

It is also why he has been grouped with Martin O'Neill. Jimmy Nicholl and, further down the scale, Sammy McIlroy, as Irish managers who could, one day, rival the Scots who dominate the munagerial scene in England. There are certainly strong similarities between Wilson and O'Neill.

Both have an intense emotional involvement in the game, but are articulate and expressive with it. Such qualities are seen in the likes of ham and, before them, Brian Clough. That is no coincidence because Wilson and O'Neili cite Clough as their main managerial influence. Wilson went to Notting-

ham Forest as a wide-eyed 22-year-old just after the European Cup triumphs and, even though he believes it is the one club where he did not improve himself as a player, he did learn a great deal for future reference. "I was in awe of them," he

running about all over the place. Mr Clough just said, 'Hey you, thick bastard, stand still', John Robertson was magnificent at standing still. He just carried space and I find myself saying that to my players now."

It seems to be working. Barnsley are going up because they play decent, attractive football. They deserve to go up — but can they stay there? Conventional wisdom suggests that they will come straight back down, but Wilson is not so sure.

e said: "I am impressed by the durability of Derby. I think it may just be possible to survive. It is realistic to say that we could stay there and even prosper eventually. We don't have anyone bankrolling us, but Wimbledon didn't have any money when they went up and they have prospered, so that has to be our aim. But we have just got to survive the first season",

The survival plan has reasonable foundations. Wilson and John Dennis, the Barnslev chairman, have been planning for promotion since the turn of the year and they have, they say, the finances in place. Oakwell may be surrounded by cobbled streets, but there is vision - and that gives them a chance.

Anxiety begins to gnaw at bottom six teams

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BLACKBURN reached a milestone on Tuesday night - not one that will be engraved in the Ewood Park record books or recalled with great affection in years to come, but a significant mark nonetheless. With a 4-1 victory against Sheffield Wednesday, they reached 41 points for the season. It is enough, surely, for them to avoid relegation.

For the rest, the pain and anguish continue. It might provide a perverse, almost sadistic, speciacle for the neutral observer, but it is all too real for those embroiled in the grip of relegation. Loss of FA Carling Premiership status is but a hair's breadth away.

Six clubs are probably involved in the conundrum, with only five points separat-ing lifteenth and twentieth places. It is a case of perm any three from six — or at least it was until Wednesday night. when Nottingham Forest could manage only a 0-0 draw away to Derby County.

Forest have fallen from grace. Big time. A tortuous boardroom takeover, lack of financial muscle and the gradual loss of confidence have proved a fatal combination.

They appear gone.
Middlesbrough are not looking too healthy, either. Successive 1-0 defeats against Sunderland and Tottenham Hotspur have made their games in hand look worthless. FA Cup finalists and Coca-Cola Cup runners-up they may be, but an unlikely and unwanted treble is looming. A concluding programme of away games, against Man-chester United, Blackburn and Leeds United, does little to

instil confidence. For Sunderland, on 37 points, the escape tunnel is collapsing. Closing fixtures against Everton and Wimbledon are hardly encouraging and Peter Reid, the manager, is looking more mournful by

Southampton, Coventry City or West Ham United, locked together on 38 points, could yet spare Sunderland's grief. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, remains cautious, even after a scrambled 1-0 win against Leicester City on Wednesday. "If someone offered me 40 points now I wouldn't take it," he said. "I don't think it will be enough." Coventry always seem to

hang on, somehow, with Gordon Strachan probably deserving another season in the Premiership as reward for his jovial candour since succeeding Ron Atkinson. Southampton, buoyed by an unbeaten run of six games, could stay up by bearing Blackburn at The Deil on May 3. Blackburn, to huge outpourings of relief at Ewood Park on Tuesday, are out of it.

Ginola gets signal to end his stay on **Tyneside**

DAVID GINOLA'S two-year flirtation with English foot-ball is all but over after directors of Newcastle United agreed yesterday to a transfer request submitted by the French winger. A regular in the thrilling Newcastle team built by Kevin Keegan, Ginola, signed from Paris Saint-Germain in the summer of 1995, has enjoyed a less successful relationship with Keegan's successor at St James' Park. Kenny Dalglish, and has failed to hold down a permanent first-team place.

The board have discussed the transfer request and accepted it," a Newcastle spokesman said yesterday, signalling a move back to the Continent, perhaps to Marseilles. Barcelona, or, most likely, Atlético Madrid.

Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chief executive, yesterday dismissed speculation about the future of Eric Cantona, United's failure to reach the final of the European Cup prompted a stream of reports that the Frenchman may be allowed to leave Old Trafford, but Edwards said: "No discussions have taken place with are always reviewed in the close season. Eric Cantona is under contract to us for another year and there is no issue, no justification for this kind of speculation."

Earlier this week, Alex Ferguson, the manager, said:
"Eric bears a great responsibility in being captain.
There's not a great deal of
experience throughout the team, so it puts even more responsibility on him. He's a football man and the young players look up to him. He gets on well with all of them and they listen to him. He loves training, and he fits in easily to everything we want from a Manchester United

Billy McKinley, the Black-burn Rovers midfield player, is out of the Scotland squad for the World Cup qualifying tie against Sweden in Gothenburg next week. McKinlay has a knee injury. Craig Brown, the Scotland

manager, will know today whether or not Duncan Ferguson, the Everton forward. will be fit enough to join the squad. John Spencer, the Queens Park Rangers forward, is standing by to join the party.

Millwall, the Nationwide League second division club, which has been in receivership, yesterday unveiled a £i0 million rescue package led by Theo Paphitis, a Greek-Cypriot businessman. Millwall hope a placing of shares and a rights issue will raise the £10 million, providing £7.25 million to discharge debts and £2.75 million of working capital.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMPINATION: Premier division: Bisson Community College v Wellesbourne; Bolehall 8 v Avechurch; Coleshill v Highgaie; Kanfilworth v Coventry Sphint; King's Heath v Richmond Switts; Knowle v David Loyd; Shirley v Handrahan Timbers; Southam v Men KA, Worcestero v Massay Ferguson HANNESS PREMIERY LEAGUE Premier division: Cradley Town v Gomal Res; Sturport S v Wechnesfrett; Tandale v Ludow T; Walsat Wood v Stafford T; Westhelde v Binarby Hill T; Wockerhampton C v Lye Town; Wolverhampton Linkod v Clariteston

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated " denoting all-ticket Pools coupon numbers of brackets Nationwide League (-) Swindon v Crystal Palace (4) West Bromwich v Grimsby

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PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Blackburn (2.0): Manchester United v Leeds (2.0)

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| Vauxhail Conference | |
| (30) Famborough v Hedneslord (31) Hayes v Bath | |
| (32) Kidderminster v Southport | |

Bell's Scottish League

(38) Clydebank v Greenock Morion (39) Dundee v Partick (39) Dundee v Partick (—) Falkrik v St Johnstone (—) St Mirren v East File Second division second annalon

(40) Berwick v Clyde

(41) Brachin v Sternbusemum

(42) Hamilton v Avr

(at Fr Park, Motherwell)

(43) Oueen of South v Livingston

(41) Stransaer v Dumbarton Third division

Third division

(45) Allos y Mortiose

(46) Cowdenbeath y Inverness CT

(47) East Stirling y Queen's Pari
(48) Forlar y Albiron

(49) Ross County y Arbroath AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First AVON INSCRIPTION V Arsenal PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Bucker Traste v Fones Mechanics.
Clachracuddin v Fon William Fraserburgh v Web Academy; Reith v Hurrity.
Lossemouth v Nam County DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Actional v. kung's Lynn; Cambridge City v. Chelmstoard 112 b); Chellenthant v. Newport APC; Crawley v. Atherstone; Gravesend and Northfloet v. Methyr; Gresley v. Groucester Hastings v. Batoocki, Nuireation v. Dochester Salisbury v. Halescwen; Surbury Tr. v. Burton Alboon, Worcester City v. Sittingbourne. Midlend division: Bedworth v. Moor Green; Corty v. Redditch. Dudley; Town v. Hincisiey Town, Grantham v. Balston; RC Warwick, v. Snepshed D. Raunds T. v. Paget R. Soifhut Borb v. Fuschant, Stational V. Paget R. Soifhut Borb v. Fuschant, Stational Coldfield Town v. Rothwell. Southern division: Bashley v. Yate: Cinderlord v. St. Leonards: Carencester Town v. Waterloowle, Enth and Belvedore v. Witney; Farsham v. Forest Green, Reet T. v. Devedon, Havant v. Carlord Maggate v. Trowbodge, Westonsuper-Mare v. Buckingham. Town; Weymouth v. Fisher London. mouth v Fisher London
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier divisions
Accomption Stanley v Frickley, Ramber
Bridge v Gusseley Bryth Spanans v
Lancastor, Roston v Ministord: Conking Bay
hyde: Emley v Altreton, Knowsley v
Gamsborough, Runcom v Barhop Autord; Spennymoor v Leek Witton v Budon
First division: Ashton United v Whitkey Bay
Badford P. Ave v Altreton I.P. Congleton v
Netherfield, Droyksden v Hamogete Town,
Eastwood Town v Greens, Fluton v
Worksop, Limooh United v Radiothe
Stocksbridge PS v Great Hanvood
Wernington v Earsley Cellic Workington v

FOOTBALL

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premer division: Buy v Derry IJ 15) Cork v Sharrock (3 15), Frin Harps v Shop (3 15), Shelbourne v Durdsik (3 15) St Patrick's Alh v Horro Farm (3 15), UCD v Robertners (3 15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE National division: Arsenal v Liverpool (at Highbury, 12 b), Tranmere v Mithwall (at Heswall FC, 2 0).

Port Vale v Wolverhampton (1 0)

Nationwide League First division

wonsop, union unied v haddele stocksbridge PS v Great Hansoort Warmgion v Farsley Celtic Workington v Leigh V Certaes Bey (2 30). Berry v Corwy (2:30), Broon Ferry v Caernafor, Caernas v Inter Cable-Tel, Cambran v Hoftwell, Porthmedog v Film Town, Rhy v Newfown Welshpool v Ton Pentie Cup. Semi-final, second leg. Llansanthiad v Bangor Chy (2:30).

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortlard v Hitchini, Cherisey v Harrow: Dulwich v Stames, Enfield v kingstorian, Hendon v Bromley, Heytondge v Yeoni, Chierd Cafy v Dagenham and Rectarding; St Abant v Browhen Wood, Sutton Umited v Clays: Yeading v Aylestury First division: Abringdon Town v Madenhead Umited; Aldersholl Town v Wowingham, Banco Rovets v Tootling and Michart: Billencay v Thame Bognor Regs v Craydon, Chesham v Begroot Hampton v Cantevi Island, Leyton Fannani v Berkhamsted Umbridge v Molosey; Walton and Hersham v Marlow; Whyteleafe v Worthing, Second division: Cheshami v Bedford T; Edgware v Dorling; Egham v Barlong H Hersham v Marlow; Wingeleafe v Worthing, Second division: Cheshami v Bodford T; Edgware v Dorling; Egham v Barlong H Hershalad v Orlaions 19 Peler Legition Town v Metropolitan Police, Tibury v Windsor and Eton: Ware v Banshade, Wildam v Brachael Thurd division: Brantine v Hertford; Clapton v Wealdstone, Epsom and Ewell v East Truncot, Hanlow v Camberley; Knigsbury V Areley, Northwood v Rachwell Health; Southal v Wingale and Finchley; ESSEX SENUROR LEAGUE: Curp; Finelt Concord Rangets v Ford LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Branschow v Harrogoy, Brook House v Berkinssade, Cochiosters v Bracysham, Woodford v Ruislip Maror COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Bedfort v Ashlord, Chipslead v Raynes Park Vale, Cobbam v Wealton Casual's Farman v Ash. Netherne v Mersham, Sandhurst v Canlengh, Villing Spons v Harriey Wintery; Westfeld v Cow MinterVA South under v Herperdon, London Premier division: Badford v Toddington; Buckingham Athletic v Harpenden, London Colney v Arlesey Million Keynes v

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Woodbridge Town, Cladion v Gorleston, Des v Sonsmit Great Yampouth v Wordsmi; Hadleagh U v Wisbech: Halstead v Newmarkel, Spownarket v Lowestott; Suddury v Fakenham, Tipures v March; Warboys v Felestowe P and T. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First di-JEMSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First of-vision: Lymington v Bounarmouth Totlon v Portsmouth, Andover v Brackenturst BAT v Nomsey: Bornerton Health v Aerostructures. Chrischturch v Winhorme Town, Easteigh v Cowes Sports; Gosport v East Cowes. Ryde Sports v Whitchurch; Thaidhers Town v Downton. y Doyarilon. Uniuet sussex country league: First

UNAUET SUSSEY COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arunder v Pegham. Longrey Sports v Wick: Mile Oak v Shorefram, Dalkanood v Halshazm; Sahdean v Whitelanuki, Selsey v Pringmer; Three Bridges v Horstram YMCA.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenhem v Thaneamead; Convincen v Deal: Furness v Ramsgale Greenech v Chatham. Lordswood v Sinde Green: Sheppey v Tuntaridge Wells; Whotsiable Town v Cray, Wookwich v Herno Bay. Green: Shoppey v Turbridge Wells; Whistable Town v Canyt, Woolwich v Henrio Boy.

UH-LSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUIE: Premier division: Kempston v Boston Long Buckby v Eynesbury. Potton v Ford Sports. Si Naots v Hobiosers: Spalding v Cogenthoe: S and L Corby v Newport Pagnell Stotland v Welkingborough: Wootton v Starthord.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLANCE: Bridgmont v knypersley V Chaselown v Barwey, Halesoven H v Brownch Town, Oldbury Li v Hinchey Athletic, Potsall V Boldmer S M, Pershore T v Rocester, Rushall O v Blakenthal' Sandwell v Stratford T, Shrimal T v M Md Police Willenhall v Stapenhill.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Final division: Bootle v Vaudholf GM, Chedotton v Eastwood H; Mossey v Newcestle Town, Narhwich Town v Pennith: St Holens v Holker Old Boys, Trafford v Salford. C v Lye Touri: Wolverhempton United v Enfestion FEDERATION BREWERY NORTH-ISSN LEAGUE: First division: Beddington Temess v Morpeth, Consell v Esengion; Guita-borough v Whitchtarn; Whitby v Tow Law. North-IER COUNTER EST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby v Brigg Town; Hucknati Town v Selby, Melitoly MW v Haffeld Main; North Fertilly v Ashtheti; Ossell Albon v Haffert Tokering v Amold; Ossell Albon v Haffert Town, Thackley v Pontelliad o Belper Town, Thackley v Pontelliad o Belper Town, Thackley v Pontelliad of Bentonin v Ards; Portadown v Chisalters First division: Bellydare v Bellymens; Bangor v Carnok; Distillery v Newry; Comagh v Lane SOUTH ENST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Frield division: Bellydare v Milliad (1) 0, Ipswind v Waldrod (11.0), Norwich v Arsensi (11.0); Portamouth v Southerd (11.0), Second division: Bournemouth v Colchester (12.0), Lution v Resed Civil 11.0 v Milliad (10.11) 10.0 v Milliad (10.11) 10.0 v Milliad (10.11). mouth v Southerd (11.0). Second division:
Southernoth v Calchester (12.0), Luton v
Bristol City (11.0): Orderd Utd v Wimbledon
(11.0); Southampion v Brentland (11.0).
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE. First
division: Cwil Service v Old Esthamelans.
East Bernel OG v Carshalton; NatWest
Bank v Norsemen, Old Parmiterians v
Crouch End Vampies
ADTHIBLIAN I MEGILE: Prevaler divisioner.

ARTHURIAN LILIGUE France divisions Chyprellens v Cholmelerans, Foresters v Brentwoods

Featherstone v Widnes (3,30) ... Hudderstield v Workington (3,30) Wakeheld v Keughley (3,30) Whitehaven v Hull KR (3,30) . . . Second division

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern di-vision: Blyth Spanans v Asion Ville i3 0; Southern division: Three Bridges v Berkhamsted (3 0) Tennents 1556 Cup Schri-finats RUGBY LEAGUE Boroughmun y Heriot's FP (at Curte, 2.0) Kirkcaldy v Metrose (at Netherdale, 2.0) Figk-off 3.0 unless stated Stones Super League Bradford v Shetfield (6 0) . TENNENTS 1566 BOWL: Semi-finals: Biggar v Ross High (at Netherdale, 3 30) Tanty Academicals v Selliah (at Pennypol, 2 0)

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION Welsh League Pirst division Treorchy v Newport (2 30)

(ar Duttus Park, Cupar, 2 0), Havech v Cume (ar Gyres LC Peobles, 2 0). CRICKET Axa Lile League

20, 40 overs
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Hampehire
CARDIFF: Gamogan v Warwickshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Derbyshire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Durham LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Gloucestershire TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset HOVE: Susser v Northamptonshire

HOCKEY
HA CUP Semi-finals: Reading v St Albans
(2 0), Surbition v Teddington (2 30)
INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS City of
Portsmouth v Loughtborough Students
(10.0), Edgbaston v Norton (12 0), Cheirns
(ord v Robinsons (2 0); Hampstead and
Westminster v Anchortans (4 0) (al Milton
Leynes)
WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPONSHIP (at
Chapuell) Group A Humberside v Suriey
(10 0); Doiset v Northamptonship (10 0)
Group B: Kent v Lancashie (11 45).

Stattordature v Gloucestershare (11.45). Final (2.0) OTHER SPORT AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (MLAF) Scottish Claymores v Rivern Fite (at Murrayfield, 3 0).

(WLA*) Scottish Laymones vi internite (at Munished, 3.0).
GOUE: Men's International: Scotland vi France (at S. Andrews); Helen Holm Scotlish Open strokeplay championship (at Portland and Royal Troon).
MOTOR RACING, British Formula: Times championship (at Brands Halch)
MOTOR RALLYING: Prefit International Rally (at Carlsie)
SNOONER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)
SPEEDWAY: Premier League Cup: Glasgov v Stoke (6.50)* Newcassle v Hull (6.30), Skegness v Reading (6.30)* Amateur Leagues Lahallan v Berwick, (2.30), Mitterhally ripswich and hung's Lynn (3.30); Reading, 2.30)
Mitterhally ripswich and hung's Lynn (3.30); Reading, 2.30)
TABLE TERNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

Manchester)
VOLLEYBALL: National League: Women: VILLEYBALL National League; women; First division; Reebolt Liverboot Cdy v Britannia Music City (12.45) London Malory v Singler Free Birmingham (12.30); Shef-held Wednesday v Manchestar United Salford (2.30) CLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Prombir division: Letymor OB v Old Tensonens, Old Aloysans v Glyn OB SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senter one: Notisborough v Soutigate County: St Mary's Coll v Wandsworth Bor, Witan v Ulysses. Olyssas, SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Croydon Cup: Final: Croydon v Worthing 110 30; English Schools Wagon Wheels five-a-side Snells (at Asion Villa Lasure Centre, CRICKET

Entennic Assumince county championship 11 D, final day of four, 98 overs mornum CHELMSFORD: Essex v Hampshire CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Warwickshirit CANTERBURY: Kent v Derbyshire DLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Durham LEICESTER: Leicestershire v TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamahire v Wordstarthire THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset HOVE: Sussex v Northemptons

University metch 11 0. 50 overs THE PARKS: British Universities v HOCKEY

INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: City of Portamouth v Chelmstord (10.0): Ediphaston v Hampstead and Westminster (12.0): Loughtborough Students v Potomson (2.0). Norton v Ancherrans (4.0) (at Melon Keynes) NISSAN IRISH CUP: Finel: Lisnagorvey Pembroke W (al UC Dublin, 2 30) Permionice W (at UC Dublin, 2 30)
MEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Doncaster v
Chesterfield: Droinwich v Wednesbury;
Lichtleid v Aloridge; Whitchurch v Swansen
WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP:
Finals tat Chiqueall, Group A: Surrey v
Northamptonships (10 0) Lancashne v
Glouessershire (11 45); Northamptonshire
v Humberside (1.20); Glouestershire v
Kerri (31 5); Group B: Obsert v Humberside
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(a la)
WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHER Bowdon (
Colwyn Bay, ECV v Eagles, Olton (
Hurborne, RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2:30

MATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Pra-miler division: Oldham SI Arme's v Loca Lane, Wess Hull v Egremont Wilgan SI Parrick's v Dudley Hill First division: Wilgan SI Juce's v Askam. Second division: Featherstone Amatieur's Millord Ovenden v York Acom, Storlaugh v Dewsbury Moor

RUGBY UNION Mok-off 3 0 unless stated Courage Clubs Championship Fina division Bath v Sele Gloucester v Bustol West Hartlepool v London Irish . nointib bocoeil

Newcestle v London Scottish . . . Richmond v Nottingham Wakefield v Blackheath Waterico y Rugby Third division Havant v Leeds Liverpool St Helens v Harrogale ... Fourth division north Fourth division south Barking v Tabard
Cambartey v Berry Hill
Henley v Chellenham
High Wycamba v Asksans
Metropolitan Police v North Walsham Weston-super-Mare v Charitton Perk.
SOUTH WEST: First division: Bernstagle v
Stroud, Bridgwater v St Ives, Camborne v
Metiderfread, Launceston v Gloucester Old
Brys; Metson v Brobern, Setebury v
Torquey
NORTH: First division: Bradlord and
Bridgley v Hull lonians, Bridlington v Wigton:
Brougtron Park v New Bontling: Maccassfield v Stockton, Widnes v Tyredale West
Park Branninge v Sedgley Park.
MEDLANDS: First division: Belgrave v
Leighton Buzzard (a) Cardill Arms Park)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (MLAF) Amsterdam Admirals v London Monarchs (7 0)
BOUING: European middleweight champiorship Flusters Chertil (Ff. holder) v Nevilla Brown (Burton) (at Swedincole) GOLF: Men's International Sociand v France (at St. Andraws), Helen Holm Sociatish Open strokeplay championship (Portland and Royal Troon)
LACROSSE, Shepherde Friendly Socialy League: Premiter division: Cherafte Hulme v Boardman and Ecoles, Moorthorpe v Heatin Mersey, Melor v Stocknor MOTOR RALLYING: Prefile International Rally (at Carlisle).

SNOONER: Embessy world championships (at Shelfield) Specially (7 30); Covernity v Swindon (7 30); Esabborne v Bole Vue (7 30), Premiter (Jacobs Vue (Jacobs Velinburgh (7 30))
TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Handman)
TENENIN BOWLING: Silk Cut League National final (at Amport bowl Harington, 9 0-4 30)
VOLLETBALL: National League: Men. First division: Warnick Rige v Sportset Whilefield (6 30), Crohon Sportswissinouse v Reebook Liverpool City (3 0) OTHER SPORT

CRICKET: YORKSHIRE AND ESSEX APPEAL AS LIKELIEST CHALLENGERS TO CHAMPIONS IN BATTLE FOR RECORD PRIZE

Surrey aiming to put on Sunday best again

regularly raised against the Sunday league. Some blame it for declining standards, others simply condemn it as an exhausted formula ready for redundancy. Abolitionists are rife. Tomorrow, however, it enters its 29th season and, no matter what reforms are applied to the county programme next year, rest assured

that the league will remain. The rationale for its existence has always been that it provides a brief and easily understood style of cricket at a time accessible to a young audience. This is still a logical and powerful argument, one that will persuade the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to retain it, no matter how many interested

PLENTY of voices in cricket are counties, may canvass for its extinction.

Changes are not discounted, however, and the Sunday element of the equation is far from sacred. Experimentation with floodlit games in midweek - there will be at least three this summer — will be encouraged, especially if television companies are supportive. The ECB has a healthy envy of the popularity of the FA Carling Premiership and playing the league games on differ-ent days of the week, it believes.

could heighten the league's appeal.

Now that the dreaded "Sunday sandwich", when championship fixtures were interrupted, has largely been eliminated by a change of starting day for four-day games, the number of overs could be increased

Alan Lee previews the new season of one-day

league cricket that gets under way tomorrow

to 50, improving the product and recreating the league as one of only two, rather than the present three,

county one-day events. This, though, is at least one-year distant, probably more. For now, under its latest title as the Axa Life League, the parameters that have survived most of the league's life will stay in place as Surrey defend the one title they have won in the

past 15 years. Dave Gilbert, the immensely influential coach at the Oval, is as much motivator as technical adviser and he insists that the relief and

reassurance gained from winning the league will unlock the door to higher honours for his team. He

Surrey have not begun auspiciously in the county championship, where for some years now their potential has far outstripped their performance, and the sceptics among us need some convincing that they have reformed their en-trenched habit of spinelessness in the long-distance games.

The sprints, however, are a different matter and although the leading bookmakers beg to differ, three of

them preferring the chances of Warwickshire, Surrey deserve to start favourites to win this title again. They bat at a higher tempo than most opponents, can boast enough genuine all-rounders to suit this form of the game and have acquired a proven match-winner in

ian Salisbury. The development of the Hollioake brothers, perhaps even the competition between them, promises to be a feature of this season and, although Surrey will feel the absence of Brendon Julian on Sundays, they should have Chris Lewis available for the majority of the summer and will have the emerging Alex Tudor to give bite to their bowling.

Nottinghamshire lost out only on run-rate last season but, even allow-

ing for the eccentricities of 40-overs cricket, it seems inconceivable that they can come so close again. Yorkshire, third last year, are far likelier contenders and, if Essex start well, they can belie their 1996 position, one off the bottom, and mount a serious challenge for the record £42,000 prize.

The BBC and Sky Television will both screen live matches through the summer, the satellite channel opening up tomorrow with coverage of Nottinghamshire's game against Worcestershire at Trent Bridge. Surrey start at home against Somerset and there will be sympathetic interest in Durham's attempt to equal last year's miserable tally of one win when they play Lancashire at Old Trafford.

rewarded with late dismissals

CARDIFF (third day of four): Warwickshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 323 runs behind Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN'S patience was rewarded at Cardiff yes-

It looked as though Glamor-gan had lost their chance

off Thomas. Frustration turned immediately to delight, however, when, off the first ball of the next over, Welch came down the pitch to Croft and drove who half an hour earlier had punished Butcher for three fours in four balls, each with an authentic batsman's stroke. was furious with himself, and

understandably so. With only four more overs

At the start of the day it had seemed highly unlikely that there would be any play at all, rain through the night and morning having turned the outlield into a miniature lake. But, by noon, the sky had cleared and, by 3pm, the umpires, Constant and Kitchen, were carrying out the first

Hugh Morris, hit hard on the head by a Donald bouncer on Thursday, was putting a brave face on things yester-day. "I've still got the bruise above my ear, and I don't have to touch it to know it's tender," he said. "When Donald hit me, everything went black. I had a tingling sensation at the side of my face, and I felt sick and light-headed." He nevertheless intends to field today.

Glamorgan

By JOHN THICKNESSE

terday, where, having waited six hours for the Sophia Gardens floodwaters to recede, then missed two catches when the game restarted at 5pm. they still bagged two of the nine Warwickshire wickets they need to begin their county championship programme with a thumping win today.

when Andy Moles, the acting captain, and Graeme Welch. the nightwatchman, survived 19 of the 24 overs they were due to face when play finally got under way. Not only was luck running Warwickshire's way in the form of mis-hits falling safe, but each batsman

Robert Croft, diving to his ight at slip, could not hold a half-chance when Welch, on 31, flashed hard at Darren Thomas, Then, when Moles was 37. Alun Evans, one of the two substitute fielders, dropped him at leg slip, also

to be bowled, Allan Donald was sent in as night-watchman, and, off the last but one ball of the final over, departed to a brilliant diving catch by Adrian Shaw, the wicketkeeper. It brought belated reward for Thomas for two fast spells.

of two inspections.

Irani enjoys himself

ONLY 14 overs were possible at Chelmsford yesterday, but that was quite sufficient time for Ronnie Irani to make the highest score of his career. His unbeaten 123 included the kind of bludgeoned drives that cause bowlers to repine. The upshot is that Hampshire will need 525 to win today, a total

will not achieve. There are various ways of 14 fours and came off 197 balls. Only Stuart Law has batted more impressively in this

The one wicker to fall was by a quicker ball from Udal as he shaped to drive. He had given useful support to Irani. which was more than could be said of the lower middle-order. The same was true of Cowan. who pulled Udal for six and hatted merrily until the declaration was made.

said that Essex should have declared earlier. Not many people would have reckoned Hampshire would score 400. let alone 528, and besides. there is still some help for the medium-pace bowlers in this pitch. Rain, scarcely seen in this parts for weeks, is now the chief concern of Essex,

IN BRIEF McMillan decides to retire from ring

COLIN McMILLAN, the former World Boxing Organis-ation featherweight champion, yesterday announced his retirement from boxing. Me-Millan lost his British title to Paul Ingle in January and has now decided to pursue a career outside the ring.

"I didn't want to rush into a decision." McMillan, 31, said. "I wanted to think it through and weigh up everything and now I feel it's time for me to call it a day and move on.

"I couldn't get motivated for the last fight against Ingle. Once you've fought at world level, it's hard to get yourself motivated for other fights against some of the young. hungry guys who want to get your scalp on their record as a former world champion."

Bowis: Tony Allcock, the world outdoor champion, forced his way back into the frame for a place in the semifinals of the Mazda Jack High international singles tournament in Sydney yesterday when he scored an exciting 7-9, 9-7, 9-8 victory over Kevin Walsh, of Australia.

David Gourlay, the 1996 world indoor champion, from Prestwick, was beaten in straight sets by Roma Dunn, of Western Australia, whose 9-2, 9-8 victory will revive calls for the inclusion of women in leading events.

Squash: Wales reached the final of the men's European. team championship for the first time with a 3-1 win over France in the semi-finals in Odense, Denmark yesterday. Their opponents today will be England who beat Finland 4-0 in the other semi-final.

Cycling: A record 143 riders start today in the three-stage Procam Classic, the fifth event in the Premier Calendar competition. The race, based in Beverley, Yorkshire, has attracted the best field of the year. Rob Hayles has a clear lead with three victories.

Tennis: Michael Chang, the No i seed, narrowly avoided defeat at the hands of Juan Albert Viloca, of Spain, in the United States men's clay court championships in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Chang eventually overcame Viloca 6-2, 6-7, 7-5 to reach the quarter-finals.

HOCKEY

Hampstead inspired by Crowley

MARK CROWLEY, the South League's top scorer, played a prominent part in the 3-0 victory for Hampstead and Westminster against Norton in the inter-League play-offs at Milton Keynes yesterday.

Crowley made Hamp-stead's second goal in the 45th minute and provided Robert Thompson with a perfect pass for the third 13 minutes later. Thompson, playing at centre half, had scored Hampstead's first goal from a short corner in the ninth minute. Norton, the North League

champions, had no luck with a succession of short corners. In pool A. there were victories for Chelmsford and City of Portsmouth against the newcomers, Loughborough Students, and Robinson, respectively. Chelmsford built a 3-1 lead by half-time with goals by Cullen from a short corner. Thorogood and Whitford, from another short cor-ner. Butler levelled the score at I-I for Loughborough, who were finally silenced when Whitford converted another short corner ten minutes before the end for a 41 victory.

Robinson, the West League champions, made a lively start against City of Portsmouth but were somewhat erratic with their shooting and lost 2-0. Hayward converted a short corner for City of Portsmouth in the twelfth minute and Avery, formerly of Havant, scored from a penalty stroke five minutes later. Two shots by King. Robinson's captain, went astray in the second half.

Edgbaston defeated Anchorians 1-0 in pool B. McMillan scoring in the 32nd minute from a penalty stroke. ☐ After retiring from the county scene five years ago. Linda Carr, the former England and Great Britain captain, is turning out as playercoach for Lancashire in the county championship finals at Old Loughtonians this weekend. Carr. 41, won every domestic indoor and outdoor title with Lancashire and

parties, including a number of Derbyshire hopes go down with **DeFreitas**

BY PAT GIBSON

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, require 278 runs to beat

LONG as Phillip DeFreitas was working his way through the Kent second innings, with a masterly exhibition of controlled fast-medium bowling, Derbyshire had every chance of winning this fascinating curtain-raiser to the new county championship season. Then he broke down with a groin strain, and Der-

byshire began to fall apart.

Devon Malcolm's notoriously worky radar had already gone on the blink to such an extent that he was to concede 112 runs in 20.4 overs; Dominic Cork could not help much either, because of a groin strain of his own, and,

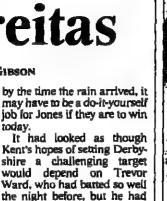
Leicestershire willing to wait

LEICESTERSHIRE have failed in their efforts to sign African all-rounder, as their overseas player for this season. They are still negotiating with others, but, if they are not successful, they will wait for Phil Simmons to return at the end of May. Dickle Bird the former Test umpire, has been made an honorary life member of the Cambridge University Cricket Club.

by the time that Paul Strang and Martin McCague had finished with what was left of the attack. Derbyshire had been set to score a formidable

To make matters worse, Andy Hayhurst, their new signing, had damaged his right knee so badly in the field that he will only be able to bat with a runner as a last resort. He will then be able to concentrate on his other job. as second-team coach, while he recovers from a torn cartilage.

Michael Atherton would have known exactly how Dean Jones, the Derbyshire captain. felt when he found himself going out to bat with his side already reduced to 14 for two. Although a surprisingly carefree Chris Adams had helped him to take them to 59 for two



It had looked as though Kent's hopes of setting Derbyshire a challenging target would depend on Trevor Ward, who had batted so well the night before, but he had added only a single to his 95 when he tried to force DeFreitas through the off side and edged the ball on to his off Instead it was Strang, the

Zimbabwean recruit, who took the fight to Derbyshire, seizing on Malcolm's waywardness with a relish for the offside which will bring him plenty of runs until the professionals on the circuit work him out and start to bowl a more restrictive line. Five fours off Malcolm. giving him 11 in all, took Strang to 50 off only 39 balls, and there were two more boundaries before he carved DeFreitas into the

hands of third man. Marsh had already become DeFreitas's fourth leg-before victim of the innings, giving him figures of seven for 64 of his eighth over of the morning and left the Derbyshire attack with a decidedly

threadbare look. His injury is not too serious - indeed, he made the gesture of returning to the field at the fall of Kent's ninth wicket only to be waved away by Jones who knew that he would not be allowed to bowl anyway and, on this form, he could yet add to his 101 one-day international appearances. The recall could even be as a replacement for Cork, who looked laboured throughout and will now miss Derbyshire's next

two one-day games. Not that he was the only one who looked laboured. Jones had little alternative but to keep Malcolm trundling in and, by the time he got a wicket, McCague had helped himself to the fourth 50 of his career and Headley and Patel had helped him to put on 116 for the last two wickets.

Then a revitalised Kent went to work in the field Eatham took a stunning catch. one-handed to his left at midoff. when Rollins drove Headley off the back foot and Llong picked up another good one, two-handed to his right at second slip, to dismiss Barnett, also off the bowling of



Caddick provides solitary success

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (third day of four): Surrey, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 254 runs behind Somerset

SOMERSET went to their beds happy men on Thursday night, having broken the back of Surrey's first innings so utterly that they could expect to enforce the follow-on early on the third day. The rain. which delayed the start by an hour and then returned to prevent the continuation of play after lunch, disrupted their progress.

To win this match they must now take 12 wickets today. which is possible but not very likely. Surrey, surely, will not surrender their wickets as foolishly as they did on the second afternoon when their batsmen played some dim cricket. Nevertheless they have had a useful warning shot across the bows in the very first match of what everybody imagines will be a fruitful season for them.

Somerset could bowl only 16

overs in the morning, for the wicket of Martin Bicknell, who was superbly held lefthanded by the diving Turner as the batsman tried to turn Caddick behind square. Caddick had reverted to bowling round the wicket and deserved his success for, as he had done the previous evening, he ran in rhythmically and occasionally got the ball to "spit" at the batsmen.

When Van Troost, the fast Dutchman, is fit to retake his place, and when Mushtaq arrives to purvey his twirl.

should be strong enough to make good the likely loss of Caddick to the Test side. The depth of the batting, one would have to say, is less Tomorrow all eyes are on English cricket's first exposure to the showbiz game familiar

to crowds in other parts of the world. Surrey's "lions" will be accompanied to the crease by snatches of favoured songs. and a disc jockey will be on hand to jolly things along. Or

Somerset's bowling resources

Newell heightens Sussex satisfaction

BY SIMON WILDE

HOVE (third day of four): Sussex. with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

SUSSEX have scarcely put a foot wrong in this match but they will be hardpushed to claim victory. Steady drizzle yesterday delayed the start by half an hour and the players came off for the last time at 12.20pm. The forecast is equally unsettled for today, but whatever the result, the game has injected optimism into a Sussex season for which there had

previously been only the bleakest predictions.

After the impressive debuts of the two stalwarts. Mark Robinson and Neil Taylor, it was the turn yesterday of Keith Newell 25, to confirm his promise by completing a maiden championship century. For the past two seasons, Newell has been no more than a fringe player. Although he scored a half-century in his first match and a century - in a memorable defeat of the touring West Indians - in his second. This is only his seventeenth first-class game, and he has now three centuries to his credit.

"The way Keith has started the season is absolutely no surprise to the other players." Peter Moores, the Sussex captain, said. "His pre-season form was terrific and the prospect of a regular first-team place has brought him out of himself."

Newell and Jarvis took their seventhwicket partnership from 41 to 107, Newell reaching his hundred with a square-cut boundary off Mohammad Akram. Jarvis dominated the partnership and there were ten fours and a six in his hardhitting 64. an innings which Akram ended shortly before the rain came.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Hampshire CHELMSFORD (third day of four). Hamp-shire, with all second mangs, without in hand require \$25 runs to beat Essex. ESSEX: First Innings 246 (P J Prichard 65 C A Connor 7 for 46) Second Immags G A Goodh Bay b Sicchenson

P J Prohad to James N Hussam low b James G Law o Aymos b Stopherson C fran not but D J Robroon a keach b James R Law e Keech b Mascalenhas J Hyam e Laney b Stephenson C Non b Udol Eatras (b.2, ab 16, w.2 inb 24) Total (8 wkts dec) FALL OF WICKETS 1-65 2-126 3-139, 4-267 5-276 6-300 7-307, 9-398 90MLING Corner 12-0-66-0 Milburn 11-0-75-0 Stephenson 20-3-74-3 James 22-0-106-3, Mascaterhas 15-2-48-1, Udal 16-2-55-1

HAMPSHIRE First Immogs 161 (A P Commo 5 for 49) Second Inners Total (no wkt) ______ BOWLING, Ref: 1-0-3-0 Bonus points Essex 5 Hampshire 4

Umaries J C Balderstone and V A Holder

Glamorgan v Warwickshire

CARDIFF (that day of load) Wannokshire, with seven second-inergy wokets in hand are 303 runs behend Glamorgan.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Imangs 151 (\$ D) Thomas 4 for 621 *A J Moles not out W G Khan b Thomas G Weich c Dalo b Croft A A Donald c Shaw b Thomas Total (3 wkts) FALL OF WICKETS 1-6, 2-74, 3-77 BOWLING Watton 12-3-15-6: Thomas 12-5 3-31-2, Croft 7-4-10-1, Burcher 3-0-21-0 GLAMORGAN: First Innings 551 for 3 dec (H Morris 233, A Dale 106 S P James 83) Bonus points. Gamorgan 8:17annolishire 0 Umpries M.J. Kitchen and D.J. Constant.

CANTERBURY (third day of fault Dorov stare, with eight second innings with hand, require 278 runs to beat Kont KENT: First limitings 251 (M.A.Eatham 72 no out S.A.Morch 57, O.E.Malcolm 6 for 74)

Second trangs O P Futton sits 5 DeFredas
N J Lang c Jane; 5 DeFredas
T R Ward 5 DeFredas
T R Ward 5 DeFredas
A P West 8th 5 DeFredas
M Y Ferrang this 5 DeFredas
M Y Ferrang this 5 DeFredas
M A Earnart c Cork 5 Deers
P A Sharp o Fedins 5 DeFredas
N J McCague not out
D W Headley c Knikken 5 Dean
M M Patiel o Rollins 5 Malcalin
Ectas, (to 5) Egras (/b Z) FALL OF WICKETS 1-55 2-79, 3-79, 4-79 5-120, 6-180, 7-218, 8-227, 9-235

BOWLING Cork 19-5-50-0; Malcolm 20-4-0-112-1, Defredas 20-5-64-7 Dean 11-1-43-2, Clarke 6-0-53-0, Rolles 1-0-9-0

DERBYSHIRE First Immeg: 248 (* 1) Kullivan 61, Nr. J. McCagun 6 for 75 () W Headley 4 'at 51 Second Image K J Barnelf C Long b Head o. A S Railins c Eatrain b Heads C J Adams not but *D M Jones not but Extrac (lb 1) Total (2 wkts) " FALL OF WICKETS 1-5 2-14 BOWLING Hoadley 6-1-14-2, McCague 72-1-28-0, Eartam 2-0-6-2

Some points. First 6 Destyanne 5. Umbres In & Parmer and Pilitary Surrey v Somerset THE CVAL inted day of four, Suntay, with two high strongs whoses or mand, as 254 runs between Somerse.

SOMERSET First for ingo 460 IR 3 Harden 136 not out. P.D. Bowlar 62 15 Horstong 56. M.N.Lathwell 50) SURREY. FOR IT AND Did Bohell clarid birenting
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FALL OF WICKETS 154, 2-09, 3 120 4 IST 5-121 6-143 7-17 9-236

BOWLING: Carboth 26-2-54-2, 57-re 8-2-41-1, Roce 18-7-35-3, Heroberg 18-9-25-2.

Banus portes Surrey 4 Sementel 7

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Sussex v Northamptonshire HOVE (thed day of four). Suspect with three first-missions indicate in hand, are 96 nms. aread of Northemptonship NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 315 (R P. Montgomena 66 / D.J. Capet 57, J. N. Snape 55 M.A. Robinson 6 for 78)

SUSSEX: Fast Immgs N J Corham Iber b Taylor K Groenfield o Mantgamerie b Mahammad Akram N R Taylor o Shape b Capol C W J Athoy bar b Mohammad Akra F. Novel not out

V.C. Drates a Shape to Taylor

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P.W. Jarvis Ruy to Michantimed Akram

Extras (b 2, b) 7, nb 30) A A khan and M A Rebrison to bat FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-15, 3-137, 4-263 5-288 6-303, 7-410 BOMILING Monorthmad Airgen 22-2-118-3 Tayon 20-7-52-3 Curran 53-32-0 Shape 16-4-55-0 Emburey 14-2-39-1 Capel 13-1-57-1; Perforcing 11-1-49 0

Bonus points: Sussex 3 Northamptonshin 6 Umpres, A Carlison and A G T Whitchead No play yesterday OLD TRAFFORD that day of four Lancachire 506 (G D Llova 102, P J Marin 78 not out. J E R Gallian 73. G Chapple 66, M Walterson 511, Durnam 201-6 (D C Boom

LBCESTER (time day of four Gloudester-chine 245 (5 Young 52 P.C. Russoll 57, A.D. Mutally 5 for 52) and 8-0. Lecestershire 307 (D.L. Muddy 80, P.A. Nostr. 77 not out)

TRENT BRIDGE (that) day of lour)
Viorcostershiro 417 (T.S. Curts, 113, T.M.
Mondy 70, W.P.C. Worston 52, M.N. Bowen
5 for 99 (Notinghamshiro, 196-3) (P.R.
Pollard 31, R.T. Robinson 80) University matches

Cambridge University v Middlesex FENNER'S (final day of three). Cambridge University drow with Middleson MIDDLESEX: First Innings, 359 for 2 doc (MW Gatting 160, P.E. Wellings 128 not out)

Second Innings P N Weekes & Jones to How D C Nash t and to Freeth J C Peekry not out 1K R Brown not out Extres (to 5, ib 2, w.2) Total (2 wkts)

BOWLING How 10.4 2 58-1, Schaffer 8-3-19-0 Frenth 8-0-31-1 House 3-0-20-0, Jones 7-2-25-0 CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First training: Umpues: H D Bard and H G Cowley

FALL OF WICKETS 1-83, 2-154

THE PARKS (and day of throry Yorkships 335-2 dec (D Bytts 126 not out. A McGrath 105 not out. M D Morein 53] and 275-2 (B Parker 138 not out, M P Youghan 109) Ovland University 114 Match ebandoned TOUR MATCH. Port of Spen (one day) training 274-8 (S C Gunguly 101, N S Safru 70); Vico Chancollor's XI 242 (S Chanderpaul 66, B C Lara 57) Indums with

No play yesterday

at bowlers' expense

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickers in hand, require 525 runs to beat

that, it can be assumed, they

celebrating a century and most of them are increasingly unappealing, Irani, who had 95 runs to his name overnight, kissed his bat and blew another to the dressing-room Nevertheless, his was an excellent innings, one that included

that of flott, who was bowled

If the weather continues to be poor, it will inevitably be

Radional G LACLY DELIVED A CONT. thelesy beat Martin 1. 21-15 to ensure the needed $q_{UC,\chi,\gamma}$. . disappointing to prompt where τ

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SNOOKER

O'Sullivan rides luck in fine style

TWO exceptional clearances, some solid scoring and an outrageous fluke combined to help Ronnie O'Sullivan to close in on a quarterfinal appearance in the Embassy world championship at the Cruci-

ble Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday,
O'Sullivan, already likely to
qualify for a £165,000 bonus after his maximum 147 break in the first round, is also among the favourites for the winner's cheque of £210,000. He lived up to that billing by building a 9-7 lead over Darren

Playing at his fluent best only in flashes during the early exchanges on Thursday, O'Sullivan trailed 5-3 overnight. On the resumption, though, it quickly became clear he was in no mood to remain subdued

DETAILS

as he won the day's opening frame, from 46-1 down, with a 68

O'Sullivan accounted for three of the next five frames, even though Morgan constructed breaks of 52 and 108, before his underrated tactical sense indirectly lead to success in the fifteenth for an 8-7 advantage. Leading 54-13, Morgan was placed in a fiendish snooker behind the black. He failed to escape, left an opening and O Sullivan capitalised on an oppor-

tunity born of uncharacteristic patience with a 64 clearance. Luck played the most significant role in determining the outcome of the session's final frame. When O'Sullivan went in off the blue, Morgan, faced with a tricky safety shot, wisely requested him to play again. It was a decision he would

doubled the blue off the top cushion to a middle pocket at the most acute angle imaginable. When O'Sullivan showed no remorse by subsequently porting the pink to lead 9-7. he was left requiring only four of the scheduled nine frames today to secure an eagerly-awaited encoun-ter against Stephen Hendry or Mark Williams.

With the memory of his 9-2 drubbing in the British Open final only three weeks ago still fresh. Hendry made a hesitant start against Williams and left the auditorium more than happy to be on level terms at 4-4. Hendry, attempting to record his 27th consecutive match win at the Crucible, quickly found himself 2-0 behind as Williams, universally regarded as the game's most outstanding potter, settled down

A last red-to-pink clearance gave Hendry the third frame, but the title-holder surprisingly tossed away a gill-edged opportunity to gain the momentum after Williams, 59-0 up in the fourth, had carelessly missed a straightforward red. Hendry, a master at wrenching such frames from a givel scaling with 42 kers denoted rival, replied with 42, but, despite the colours being at his mercy, he jawed the yellow off its spot Williams made no such mistake and his run of 66 in the fifth frame increased Hendry's concern.

However. Williams failed to convert his encouraging start into a first-session lead. After losing the sixth frame to a run of 41, Williams, in first with 33 in the next, failed to pot a crucial red having entered prime scoring territory. Hendry pounced with 59 in recovering to 34 and prevailed in the eighth as

McManus constructed breaks of 100, 54 and 51 in earning a 9-7 lead over Lee Walker, the world No 187, who would have found himself in even deeper trouble had he not snatched one frame after requiring a snooker with three reds still left on



Rios drives a fierce forehand during his easy win against Larsson in Monte Carlo yesterday

Krajicek slips on slow surface next round, while Moya takes on

FOR a while, at least, Richard Krajicek must have wondered if it was too good to be true. A master of serve and volley, who found the grass tennis courts of southwest London very much to his liking when he won Wimbledon last year, he was heading for the semi-finals of the Monte Carlo Open, one of the premier tournaments played on slow, red European clay. In the end, of course, it was too good to be true and Krajicek, the big Durchman, bowed out, beaten by Carlos Moya, of Spain.

Moya was brought up on the surface and, having lost the first set

6-1, put his expertise to good use to win the next two 6-2, 6-4 and, with them, the match. His reward is his second appearance in a clay-court semi-final in the space of a week. having reached the same stage in

Moya, the No 6 seed, will be one of two Spaniards in the last four, joining Alex Corretia, the No 12 seed, who easily overcame Christian Ruud, a qualifier from Nor-way, 6-2, 6-0. Fabrice Santoro, of France, prevented yet another Spaniard from progressing to the same stage, beating Carlos Costa 6-3, 7-5. Santoro meets Costa in the

Marcelo Rios, of Chile, who brushed past Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, 6-1, 6-2

Moya was delighted with his win. "I slowed my serve a little bit at the start of the second set because trying to hit too hard in the first set I realised I was giving him chances to go to the net," he said. That is useless on clay. You just need a different mentality." Mark Petchey, of Great Britain, lost to Nicolas Thomann, of France, 6-3, 6-3 in the semi-finals of a satellite tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Words of wisdom help to unravel name of the game

EVERY year or so, there is a new book on the bizarre wordage of cricket; something that explains what a googly is and why it is not a chinaman. The sort of thing that is useful for victing Americans and useful for visiting Americans and small boys. However, I find on my desk this week a copy of John Eddowes The Language of Cricket (Carcanet Press, 19.95) which has brought some genuine scholarship to cricket language, along with some pleasing shafts of humour. In the latter vein, I was touched

to find the word "rill" included. defined as a delicate late cut played very close to the stumps" and attributed to me. It comes from my Coleridge pastiche, entitled Imran Khan, hoho: So twice five furlangs fertile

With sponsors' tents was girdled

round: And there were pitches bright with sinuous rills And watched by members an

cient as the hills, Roused from their slumbers at the cry: "How's that?" But that's quite enough of that. I was also pleased to learn the etymology of sledging: the oal's

parlette ... no instance of wit in sledging has yet been recorded The origin is traced to a fourletter indiscretion with ladies present, from (would you believe it?) an Australian player, Graham Corling, who was "as subtle as a sledgehammer". Corling thus acquired the nickname Percy Sledge, after the soul singer, and a faux pas in front of a woman became a

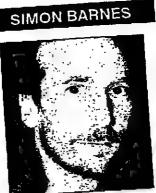
"Percy" or a "sledging".

Thus, by degrees, it came to the specialised use it has today: trying to put a batsman off with gross, generally sexual, insults.

There is also an entry for Barmy Army: "As the origin of barmy is full of barm, which is the froth that forms on the top of fermenting mait liquors' ... the name seems

Firing blanks

The failure of sporting stars is the best possible news, giving as it does hope to us all. Thus I am delighted to pass on news of the triumph of Dallas Mavericks basketball team. Basketball is a game in which the teams do nothing but score goals, a strange thing for our soccer-accus-tomed eyes. I was overjoyed to hear that the Mavericks managed to set an all-time record in the NBA by



On Saturday

managing a mighty nul points --not a single field goal -- in the entire second quarter of their match against LA Lakers.

Picture this

Wisden Cricket Monthly is offering a colour poster of a rare, almost priceless photograph of England after they have won a Test match. And the drink is flying about the place in celebration, Athers getting the brunt of it. The fluids in question are mineral water and Coca-Cola. Oh, and eight of 15 players are wearing eejit-glasses perhaps wisely seeking anonymity despite their dispatching of mighty New Zealand.

Deeper and down

The trouble with dropping bricks is that, once you have started, you cannot stop. You dig yourself in deeper and deeper. That is what has happened to the golfer, Fuzzy Zoeller. He referred to Tiger Woods, certainly young at 21, and certainly dark as to skin pigment,

as "that little boy" in a piece published in Pro Golf Weekly.

The word "boy" is a term of racist abuse in the United States. Zoeller might - only might - have got away with this, but he had to compund his error. He added that he hoped Woods would not insist on fried chicken and water melon at the champion's dinner at Augusta next year, scene of Woods's recent triumph in the Masters.

Overwhelmed by his discretion. Zoeller has just pulled out of the Greensboro Classic tournament. I cannot continue playing until I have spoken to Tiger."

Barren nights

Renzo Ulivieri, manager of Bologna football club, recently told his their match against Juventus, which they lost 1-0. He later said, tongue-in-cheek - if that's quite the expression I am looking for - that they should abstain from sex in order to win a place in the Uela Cup. This - sex, rather than the Uefa Cup — is not a joking matter in Italy. Ulivieri has received sackloads of mail, all containing sexual abuse, questioning his virili-ty and his inclination towards members of the opposite sex.

TABLE TENNIS: VICTORY OVER ARMENIA COULD YET SALVAGE WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PROSPECTS Radford helps to drag England back on course

By RICHARD EATON

LINDA RADFORD, 21, overcame understandable nerves in her first world championships to apply the finishing touches to a 3-0 victory for England's women over Armenia in Manchester yesterday.

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Radford confessed that she was "very nervous indeed", but nevertheless beat Mariana Shakya 21-13, 21-15 to ensure belated and much needed success for a squad whose disappointing start was beginning to prompt whispers of relegation. "I

don't even want to talk about that," Jill Parker, the England coach, said

afterwards. If Lisa Lomas, who secured her first win by beating Armine Makinian in straight games, can recapture her best form, all may yet be well. But, for 24 hours, the former European silver medalwinner looked uncharacteristically

out of sorts. This was in conspicuous contrast to the mood of the Chinese women. who remped past Japan 3-1, to add to three earlier 3-0 wins. They are

already certain of a place in the next stage of the competition. Deng Yaping, the world and

Olympic champion, aggressively counter-attacked even the flercest balls, and needed less than 20 minutes to dispatch Ai Sakata 21-7, 21-11. She then took only a little longer to beat Rika Matsuoka 21-14,

Jie Schopp, a China-born German, also won, but hers was a long drawn-out encounter. With the match against North Korea standing at 2-2. Schopp's decider against

Wi was producing puzzling backhand hits from the side of her bat, and it required patient and belated use of Schopp's bat technology to ก็กต่ an answer.

The adopted German began pushing and chopping and, at the same time, twiddling her combination bat to mix up the use of different rubbers within the same rally. It got Schopp back to 16-16, only for Wi to reach 19-16 and 20-18. Schopp then saved the second

match point in a rally in which both players had net cords. The winner came when the normally defensively-minded Schopp tried a sudden forehand hit and scored with it. It earned her embraces from all her team-mates and instilled belief that the Germans might challenge for a medal.

The victory also provided some joy for Manired Schillings, a wellknown official of the German Table Tenris Association, who was set upon and robbed outside his hotel on Thursday night.



THE EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION :-Play Interactive Team Cricket for your chance to win £10,000



Full details of how to enter appear in the 16-page Cricket '97 supplement which was free with The Times on April 14. For a copy call 0171-481 3355.

CHANGING TIMES

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Collingwood 14.15 (99) bt Essendon 10.10 (70); Fremenus Dochers 16.11 (107) bt St Klida 15.11 (101).

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE Prisidungh 4 Chicago Cubs 3 Pct .737 526 500 .400 .316

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Call 0891 525 019 **FOOTBALL** Reports and scores from the Nationwide League Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 50p per missuie

650 526 368 300 106 2% 5% 10½ AMERICAN LEAGUE: Testas 4 Detroit 5
Celland 12 Mirriesota 11 (11 ms), Cleve-land 5 Mirriesota 2; Socion 2 Behamore 1 (12 ms).

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Third place play-off: Olimpija Lubijana (Skovena) 86 Vileurbarme (Ft) 79 (st Rome): Final: Olympiakos (Gf) 73 Barostona (Sp) 58 Olympiakos (34) 73 Barcelona (MBA) Play-NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Play-NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Play-offis: Eastern Conference: New York (1906) Charlotte 99 (New York lead sense 1-0); Miarmi 99 Ortona (Nharm lead sense 1-0); Hermin 190 (Maria 1906) Play (National 1906) 1-0) Western Conference: Unan 106 Los Angeles Cippets 86 (Utah lead sense 1-0). Angeles Cippets 86 (Utah lead sense 1-0).

SYDNEY: Mazda Jack High international tournament: Round robbit. Section A: R Brassey (NZ) to I Taylor (Aus.) 9-2, 9-3; R Brassey (NZ) to I Gourlay (Sod.) 9-2, 9-6. Durn (Aus.) to I Gourlay (Sod.) 9-2, 9-6. Taylor to S Glasson (Aus.) 6-9, 9-6, 9-0 Taylor to S Glasson (Aus.) 6-9, 9-6, 9-0 Taylor to S Allorota (Eng.) bit K Warth (Aus.) 7-9, 9-7, 9-8; N Burkeri (SA) bit C Anderson (Norlota Istand) 9-4, 9-6.
TYE GREEN: Representative match: Eng.

CRICKET SECOND XI CHAMPIONISHIP final day of threel. Underlidge: Middlesex 247 (5 P. Molfiet 105, U.C. Atzail 4-31) and 85-2; Molfiet 105, U.C. Atzail 4-31, and 85-2; Notunghamshire 321 (N.A. Gie 120 not 0.01; U.C. Hamson 4-88) Match drawn (second day of three). The molecular day of three 1 Notinghamshire 321 (NA Gie 120 not out)
C Hamson 4-66) Match drawn (second C Hamson 4-66) Match drawn (second day of three). Taunion: Sussen, 217 and day of three 17 parsons 132. SC Eccles 112-1 (MT Peace 57 net out; Sums et 112-1 (MT Peace 57 net out; Sums et 112-1 (MT Peace 57 net out; Sums et 112-1 (MT Peace 132-1 (MT Peace 132-

FOOTBALL AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION. First division: Tottenham Hotspur 3 West Ham United C. EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-BUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-Brosse, second logs: Fiorertina (II) 0 Barcelona (Spl 2 (Barcelona win 3:1 on Thursday's lete results

aggregale); Liverpool 2 Paris Suni-Ger-main 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate) FA CARLING PREMIERS/IIP: Tollenham Hotspur 1 Middleskrough 0 NATION/MDE LEAGULE: Second division: Walter 10 Chrometald 0 Walton O Cheserveld 2
VAUXHALL
CONFERENCE: Famborough Carp. Semi-final replay. Aylocolly Christon.

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Greater Greensboro Classic: Leading
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Ireland 2 Maly 1 finatend names first M Parry of T Bereslord 9-6, 9-10, 9-6, 9-5; L Finnegan to C Fenser 9-6, 9-2; 9-1, A Finnegan to C Fenser 9-6, 9-2; 9-1, A Finnegan to C Melles names first N Hodgen by T Buday 9-0, 9-6, 9-0; J Wees by A Checky 9-0, 9-2; L Cartistas bit N Pozsar 9-7, 9-6, 9-5; Norway 3 Hungary 0 Students 1, Robenson's 0 Cay of Ports-mouth 2 Pool B: Hampstend and Wast-muster 3 Norton 0. Edgbaston 1 Anchoners 0 ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (RIHL) Easiern Con-larence: Montreal & New Jessey 3 (3 OT: New Jessey tool series 3-1) Western Conference Colorado 7 Chicago 0 (Coto-nado lead series 3-2) Procent. 5 Anghern 2 (Phocna, Isad Series 3-2) RUGBY LEAGUE Australia 24 New Zestand 22
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE Pre-mer devision: West Hull 10 Duckey Hel 17, Wookston Sc Mayfield 7 ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Casiletord 40 St Helens 24: Featherstone 54 Waning-ton 18, Haldax 22 Oldham 34, Hull 24 Hull NR 10: Leeds 22 Bradford 8 **RUGBY UNION** Super 12 tournament 23 Gauteng 0 Cruseders: Tries: Mehrtens. Crosto Con: Mehrtens Pens.

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Premier Lasgue Cup Octord v Arena
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Reading and Swindon

ODENSE Europeen team championships: Selected results: Merc Final
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9-2; S Baum lost to S Martie 7-9, 2-9, 0-9; k
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TABLE TENNIS

TENNIS

MONIACO: Men's tournament: Quarter-finuis. A Correta (So) bi C Rusid (Not) 6-2. 6-0. F Santoro (Fr) bi C Costa (So) 6-3. 7-5. C Moya (So) bi R Krajcok (Holl) 1-6. 6-2. 6-4. M Ruce (Chale) bi M Larston (Supsi 6-2. 6-1
ORLANDO, Florida: Men's tournament.
Second round: A O'Brien (US) bit K Cartsen
(Dem; 2-6-2), 6-2; C Woodfulf (US) bit O
Gross (Ger) 7-5, 7-6; G Stellrord (SA) bit S
Stolle (May) 6-2; C Mengeni (Br) bit M
Rodriguez (Aug) 6-4; B-2; J Stollenberg
(Aus) bit M Norman (See) 7-6, 6-4; M Filipp(Aus) bit D van Scheppingen (Holl) 7-6, 3-6;
(Zim) bit D van Scheppingen (Holl) 7-6; 3-6;
6-3; M Chang (US) bit JA Viscas (Sp) 6-2;
6-7 7-5.

6-7 7-5.

BUDAPEST: Women's tournament: Second round: A Coetzer (SAI bit M Maruska) ond round: A Coetzer (SAI bit M Maruska) (Austina) 6-0, 6-4; K Habsudowa (Storaka) bit P Begeron (Sen) 1-8, 6-2, 6-2, J Kinger bit P Begeron (Rom) 6-3, 7-5; S Aspel-(SAI bit H Dragonin (Rom) 6-3, 7-5; S Aspel-(SAI bit H Dragonin (Rom) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2, Lancia (Sp) 6-2, Nagyova (Storaka) bit G L Garra (Sp) 6-2, 8-4 Cuastra-finals: Coetzer bit E 1-6, 6-4 Cuastra-finals: Coetzer bit E 1-6, 6-4, 1-8-3 (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; Nagyova bit Kruger 4-6, 6-4, 6-3



RUGBY UNION 48

Unsung heroes take credit in Wasps' championship push

SPORT

SNOOKER 51

O'Sullivan keeps on track with rich run of luck



SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

Memories of a great champion dominate build-up to San Marino Grand Prix

Imola still feels presence of Senna

THE flowers, extravagantly woven into the wire fencing by unseen supplicants to the legend of Ayrton Senna, had been removed. The gravel trap had been raked as lovingly as a bunker at the Open Championship. The two-tier tyre wall, daubed in fresh yellow paint. was pristine. Tamburello was open

Three hours later, once the primal scream of the cars had subsided after the free practice session yesterday for the San Marino Grand Prix, a frantic public address announcer assaulted the senses with a hymn of praise to "la fantastica Ferrari". Eddie Irvine was on provisional pole, and Formula One was anxious to indulge in the process of renewal.

"One good race will convince no one that you are the reincarnation of Ayrton Senna," Irvine insisted to those who wished to invest longterm significance in his fractional advantage over Michael Schumacher, his Ferrari team-mate. Unwittingly, in attempting to rationalise the future, he had summoned the omnipresent ghost of the past.

The old Tamburello curve no longer has the feel of a shrine, though it is impossible to walk around it, through the leaf mould beneath tall larch trees, without being transported back, for an instant, to Sunday, May 1, 1994. Senna's death remains a seminal sporting event, even if three years seems long enough to mourn.

The unveiling of a statue in his honour yesterday afternoon, near the campsite on the outside of Tamburello, was billed as the final act of homage to his memory.

Michael Calvin on a day when reflection

superseded the drama of Formula One

to forget is an altogether different matter. Each is still answering familiar questions, dealing with the tragedy.

"Look, this isn't the type of thing

a driver thinks about when he's getting on with the job," protested Jacques Villeneuve, the championship leader, who was fifth fastest, behind both Benettons, "I don't drive around here thinking 'Ayrton was killed here. As a racer you know the risk you take, and go

Yet Heinz-Harald Frentzen, his Williams team-mate, begged to differ. He was seventh quickest, and in notably reflective mood. "I have so many mixed emotions," he said. "For me, Imola has always been a target. This is where I need to be competitive. But I can also not forget what happened here.

"I have many memories of '94. deep inside of me. I followed Ayrton as a young driver. I tried to understand his philosophies, tried to study his way of driving. He had a great respect for big accidents, a great respect for death, and yet he was taken away. Here. On this racetrack ...

The imagination is the only real threat at Tamburello these days. The changes to the circuit, implemented in the aftermath of Senna's loss, have stolen its soul, stripped it of its pivotal challenge. Imola is now like Augusta without Amen Corner, like Lord's without the slope, like Hampden without the

Once away from the main straight, the drivers accelerate to 185mph, in seventh gear, before braking sharply to set the car up for

70mph make a man weigh more than three times his body weight, but that is a routine impediment.

The mind can be more fragile than the body in such circumstances. Rubens Barrichello, again impressive in claiming eighth on the provisional grid in his Stewart-Ford, took a year to recover, psychologically, from the weekend Serma lost his life, His own massive accident in practice, where his airborne Jordan clipped the top the armoo barrier in the Traguardo complex before the straight, was, strangely, almost an

Eddie Jordan, his former employer, remembers: "Rubens was very young and quite able to come to terms with his own accident, but he was much more affected by what happened to Senna, his idol. his mentor, I think Senna's death stayed on his mind for the rest of the season. Some drivers never recover from that type of trauma."

irrelevance.

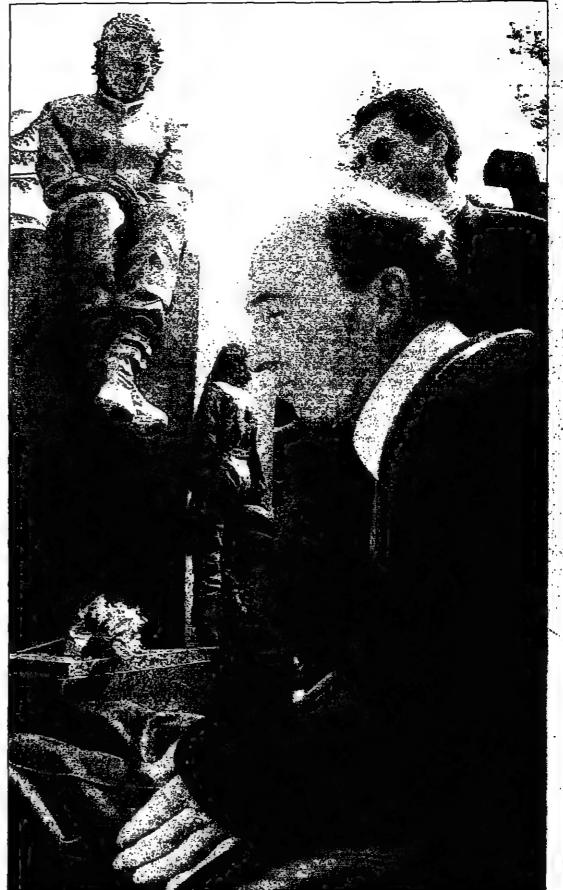
Gerhard Berger, given every opportunity to play the elder statesman in this, his 200th grand prix. feels drawn to Imola by an instinctive sense of destiny. He has been since the days when, as a penurious young sportscar driver, he would stand on a box and peer over the wall at the Tosa corner to get a glimpse of the blood-red Ferraris. circulating to near hysterical

"I cannot believe I'm in this position," he said with a wistful smile, after recording the thirdfastest time despite the debilitating effects of a viral illness. "I just don't feel as if I have done that many grands prix. It is so strange that it should happen at Imola. So much has happened to me here." He had no need to mention that

he could so easily have preceded Senna as a grim statistic. The tone of his voice was enough to revive memories of 1989, when his Ferrari exploded in flames when it hit the wall at Tamburello. He was only saved by the bravery of marshals who pulled him free, and yet, within a month, he was racing again, his badly burned hands inadequately protected by

Sometimes a driver needs to forget, to put things into perspec-tive," he reflected. "Before Imola, I did what I thought was needed. I didn't care about the consequences. Not today. What happened to me

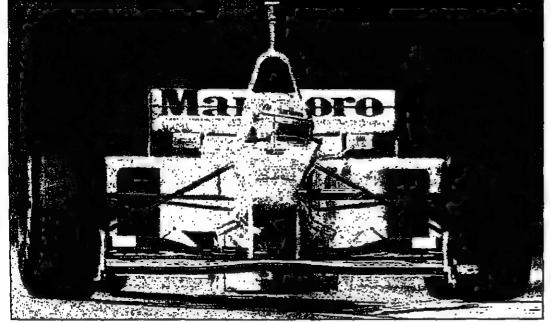
then changed me, for ever."
Yet Berger will push himself to
the limit today, in the qualifying scramble that defines so many races. Tamburello will be a blur. a brief blip in the engine note on the way to a fast lap. Ayrton Senna. wherever he is, can rest in peace.



Frank Williams, the team owner, sits beneath the statue of Senna that was unveiled yesterday

DETAILS FROM IMOLA

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS DAWN



Irvine brings encouragement to Ferrari in recording the fastest practice time at Imola

Floodlit cricket circus booked in for Hove

Alan Lee says lighting-up time will take on a new meaning when Sussex flaunt tradition

They have retained their faith against all manner of setbacks, but cricket's army of reactionaries may never recover from the latest blow to their heritage. Hove, where the deckchair population ensures the gentility of a bygone age. Is to stage a match under floodlights this sum-

mer. complete with the parapher-

nalia of rock music and audience

involvement so detested by traditionalists. Sussex, determinedly looking forward after a winter revolution ousted a committee condemned as crusty and ineffectual, are to demonstrate their thinking by playing their Axa Life League

match against Essex on a Monday

evening in June.
This is the third Sunday League game to be switched to a weekday evening this season, but the other experiments are planned for the metropolitan Test venues of the Oval and Edgbaston. It is something else entirely to bring in portable floodlights and heavy duty music amid the largely pensionable patrons of the quaint old ground that slopes down

towards the sea. Sussex's proposal is now before the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), who approve, and Essex, who do not object, and the fixture is set for a 5pm start on June 16. What is more, the club claims that the majority of their members heartily applaud the initiative. Tony Pigott. dramatically installed as chief executive after the mass resignations last month. said: "We have been going round the deckchairs, consulting our members, and most of them are happy with our efforts at change." Pigott was meeting yesterday with the suppliers of floodlights.

well aware that the cost of temporary installation could be as high as £30,000 but confident that the venture would gain sponsorship.

"We'll have music, entertain-ment, the lot," he said. "It's an ideal time to try it out, in perfect opposition because they will bring some support. Not everyone will like it, of course, but you cannot succeed by standing still in sport these days."

Pigott's views are supported at Lord's, from where Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the ECB, confirmed that a keen interest was being taken in developments at Hove. "We have got to put on cricket matches when people can watch them and Sussex, like Surrey and Warwickshire, are simply trying something new." he

Lamb explained that three criteria were applied to the floodlit proposals. No game could be staged between days of a championship fixture, the visiting team must consent to the switch and be allowed the opportunity to practise under the lights; and all such games must be staged on traditional cricket grounds rather than their football or rugby counter-

We are all aware that the English climate has never been thought conducive to night cricket" he said. "The experiments may fail, but it is certainly worth trying because, properly present-ed, the floodlit game is very attractive to the young audience we are trying to cultivate."

Whether that young audience exists in Hove has yet to be

County reports, page 50

Hoddle warns Gascoigne that time is running out

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT and was not considered for the squad

THE spectre of Paul Gascoigne hovered over the England squad again vesterday as they converged on Bisham Abbey to begin their preparations for the crucial World Cup qualifying the against Georgia at Wembley on Wednesday. The troubled midfield player's witching hour, his thirtieth birthday, is fast ap-proaching and Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, made it plain that he must stop abusing his talent if he wants to regain his international

Gascoigne, who was criticised by his manager at Rangers, Walter Smith, for embarrassing the club with his exuberant antics in the midst of what was reportedly a prolonged London drinking session recently, is still recovering from an ankle injury sustained in a six-a-side tournament to face the Georgians.

Hoddle said that he was still desperately hoping Gascoigne would recover his form and his fitness and return to the level he was playing at in the 1990 World Cup. But he

Valiant effort

dropped broad hints that England's three-game summer tour to France in June would probably be his last

There are certain things, perhaps that he needs to change in his life." Hoddle said. "He always seems to have had an injury that has dragged



Ian Wright is stretched during training at Bisham Abbey yesterday

him back down again. There are things that he used to get away with when he was 21 that you can't do at 30. He has got to change them. At 30, there are a lot of things that have happened to him and he needs to

learn from them. "I can't answer whether he will play for England again. There are players now who are still playing at 30 and playing well. Baresi was one. If you keep control of yourself, I think there is a future there and Paul is no different if he can change what he is doing. He has to adjust physically

after his injuries, too. The French tournament could not be coming at a better time for Paul Gascoigne. There are certain things he needs to change in his life. There will come a time soon when a decision has to be made about his international future. We are almost there. We are in the mid-area at the

"I have given him a chance. I am not bending over backwards for him but he needs to have a little bit of a change if he is to keep playing. He is an excellent footballer and he has got an immense talent. I have not been in the job a year yet and there is still time for me to talk to him and his club to talk to him and for him to get back to his very best."

Amid the agonising over Gascoigne, Hoddle was at least able to report that none of his squad members who have been involved in midweek games have contracted an injury serious enough to make them a doubt for the Georgia

Tony Adams will play on Wednesday, though he may miss the trip to France in the summer to allow a long-term ankle problem to clear up. "The group is so tight." Hoddle said, "but it is a game we have to win. Wembley will probably suit them better than their home pitch. We will have to be



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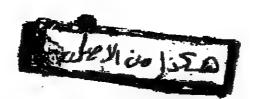
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150 tickets to be won for Chelsea's big show gardening - 5

THE

Low point for the women high flyers Ginny Dougary - 11



SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

Hordes of London arts and media types will soon be weekending together in the country, Jane McCarthy reports



Nick Jones nwiner of Soho House, a London club for the "new generation of contemporary professionals", outside Babington House he talks dreamily about plans for lakeside cocktails, poolside barbecues and dinners on the terrace

Have we got news for you

s a chill April wind blew across the Somerset landscape, the visitors from London turned their collars up, anxious to confound any notion that they might be soft. Richard Knatchbull, the landowner, stood untroubled either by the temperature or by this bunch of newcomers from metropolitan clubland, who were here to discuss the cricket field needed for their

new club in the country.

The shivering Londoners included Nick Jones, who owns Soho House, a private London club for a "new generation of contemporary professionals". His mission: to transform nearby Babington House, five miles from Frome, into

a country retreat for his members. This field, a hundred miles from Soho, is a far cry from the club's rambling Georgian building in Greek Street, where the bright young things from the world of media and arts and New Labour congregate. A succession of small cosy rooms at "The House" ensures privacy from swivelling heads syn-

€39

drome. Tony Blair's office chose it as the venue for a quiet Christmas meal, and friendly relations with the party are assured because Gordon Brown's close triend Sarah Macaulay heads the PR company representing Soho House.

But down in Somerset, Mr Jones's negotiations over the cricket field were running into problems. Neither party professed to know much about the game how much land would they need? Might they need a scorer? And, asked by Mr Knatchbull's son about nets, one of the Soho House contingent replied that, well yes, they would be essential to stop the ball going too far over the boundary.

When it came to knowledge of the land, the confusion was one-sided. Surveying the field in question, one of Mr Jones's party remarked that at least it was only grazing land. The wind stirred the level rows of

green oat shoots. Yes, the Londoners had initially been regarded with suspicion, Mr Jones told me later, but relations between the two sides had thawed

Babington House, which for generations had been owned by Richard Knatchbull's family. Now Mr Knatchbull, owner of large areas of nearby land, will watch with a neighbourly interest to see what the metropolitan types will do with his

At a cost of £4.5 million, Mr Jones is aiming to provide his members with a country retreat on a 17-acre estate comprising several small lakes, extensive gardens and woodland, a coach house, lodge, and rococo Georgian chapel. Contracts have been exchanged and work is due to start on October 1 to create 30 hedrooms, restaurants, bars, a sports complex including a 25-metre pool, gym, tennis and squash courts, croquet lawn, plus a cinema and editing suite.

ancestral home

Explaining his plans, Mr Jones says: "There will be nothing pretentious about it; our members don't want frills. But they do want a place

in the months since his initial in which they can relax and feel approach. We were standing on the magnificent drive that sweeps under its avenue of trees towards streets, but the ethos of the club remains: good service in intimate surroundings with the guarantee of discreet staff and the company of like-minded people.

> n his decision to introduce Soho clubgoers to fresh air and clean living, Mr Jones is not alone. His near neighbours in London, the more famous, and senior, Groucho Club is planning a similar move. Last week a meeting of Groucho representa-tives discussed buying a country retreat in Wiltshire

The Groucho, a notorious botthole for media movers and showbiz shakers opened in Dean Street, Soho, 12 years ago, plays down the highly publicised antics of Liam Gallagher and others. insisting that its staff learn not to be impressed, whether they are serving Chris Evans, Mick Jagger. Stephen Fry or Lenny Henry. Mary-Lou Sturridge, the general

manager, says: "Most people don't want fawning service. For those who do, Groucho is the wrong place." Like Soho House, it offers various bars, restaurants, club rooms and function rooms - the scene of many a glittery gathering, whose hosts have included Madonna. Eric Clapton, Bill Wyman and

Bob Geldof In January the club canvassed its members about a country dub, which it had discovered at a remote spot near Tisbury. Described as a "solidly built 1930s sports club surrounded by the idyllic woods and valleys of Wardour Castle," members were promised tennis, swimming, croquet, cricket and "abundant walking, fishing and shooting country". Probably more to their tastes is the offer of "a cosy sitting room, reading room, games room and a warm dining room/bar

serving wholesome, unfussy food". Both clubs intend to provide an alternative to weekending in a cottage or in what they see as overpriced country house hotels, where the rules outnumber the

Ms Sturridge and Mr Jones talk dreamily of open log fires and wooden floors.

The Groucho aims to return its rather unprepossessing pavilion, called the Pythouse Club, to its former colonial splendour, with verandas, french windows, shutters, weather-boarding and a copper roof intended, like its members, to go green with age. Babington House is altogether grander, with ornamental fireplaces, elaborate plaster-work, wooden panelling. grand oak staircase and walls lined with Gainsboroughs.

Despite the plans for a cricket field, Mr Jones doubts the sporting intentions of his members, dwelling instead on the attractions of lakeside cocktails, poolside barbecues and dinners on the terrace.
It's a vision which, voiced as it is

in tones of boyish wonder, could suggest a lack of realism. But with the success of Soho House in the past two years behind him. Mr Jones has a credibility belied by his

guests and where what you wear is artless manner. Membership for more important than who you are. his club, which costs £300 a year, stands at 1,500 and is closed. Funds for his new venture will in part come from share options, the launch party for which will be on

board a luxury, yacht at the Cannes Film Festival next month. As we pace his estate the enthusiasm mounts and, like a small child let loose in Hamleys, he indicates various aspects of Babington and outlines his plans.

At the derelict farm buildings, he announces: "This is the unique health club"; inside the woodstore. ... "this is the 25-metre pool, half open-air and half under cover; peering into the old milking par-lour ... "ah, the gym"; gesturing towards the ice-house ... "we want to put a hot tub in there"; and over by the largest lake ... "I'd like to put trout back in. There's not enough air I think, but I don't know much about that."

It is such a lack of knowledge that raises the alarm with the owners, Continued on page 2

II TRAVEL.

MING 23 GARDENING 45 COUNTRY LIFE 6 PROPERTY 10 HOME LIFE.7,8 FEATURES

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once witnessed the most astonishing act of shoplifting: so astonishing, in fact, that I believe it changed - in a small way - the course of shopping history. I have not breathed a word

of this story for almost 19 years. It was the summer of 1978 and I was coming up 14. In the old village around which my suburb had grown, there were two sweetshops. One was run by an upstanding man called Mr Davis. He wore a brown coat like Ronnie Barker in Open All Hours. He was not stupid: his counter was covered by a plastic shield thick enough to stop bullets, let alone the grubby hands of thieving teenagers. We called him Mister.

The other shop was run by Harry Hedon. We called him ancient, tiny, low-ceilinged cottage. It was divided in two: the papers and sweets to the left of the entrance, the groceries to the right. a small hallway in between. The assistant in one half could not see the goings-on in the other.

In the summer of 1978, presumably because he was a struggling small businessman trying to keep costs down. Harry made the catastrophic mistake of employing only one assistant in his fatally bisected shop. Harry did not appear there himself until early afternoon - he was an unshaven, disorganised man - so each morning his elderly, naive female assistant became a sitting target.

One day I was sitting on the bench outside the churchyard where I used to spend a regrettably Spaz. Harry's shop was in an large amount of my summer

SERIOUS SHOPPING

holidays. Two older boys approached. They were the sort of boys who confound the liberal emphasis on the importance of social conditions in the formation of character. Both lived in huge houses set in leafy grounds, indeed the father of one of them was a millionaire, yet both were about as bad as had could be in suburban 1978. The millionaire's son used to suck cola ice pops and then spit the brown gunge over his dog's head. The dog was a pure-bred Samo-yed, so it showed. That was the

kind of person he was. The other boy had a brother, also bad. That brother now appeared in the distance, standing



ROBERT CRAMPTON

next to the public telephone box at the bottom of the road. He waved to the first two boys and went into the phone box. I chose that moment to go into Harry's shop to replenish my supplies of Curly Wurlys. Turning left into the sweets' section, hearing the assistant go to answer the telephone (Harry had put his phone in the storeroom behind the grocery section of his donmed shop), I waited

SHOPLIFTING

to be served

I don't think we can supply 144 Scotch eggs at such short notice. Mr Smith, the assistant was saying in a harassed voice. "Yes. we can do the sausage rolls, but I think you should let the vicar know that he may have to look elsewhere for the catering packs of bread buns," Someone was obviously negotiating a complicated order. I was contemplating com-

ing back later, when the two older boys walked purposefully into the shop. Their faces were set grim. One was carrying a haversack.

They weighed me up and obviously decided, correctly, that I presented no threat. They both walked around the back of the counter, in itself a shocking act. One put his forearm at the end of a shelf of cigarettes, and began to scoop packets of Players No 6 into his haversack. The other - the one who spat on his dog - rang open the till. I was amazed. He took about £25, and then moved round to the legal side of the counter.

Very carefully — this has always stuck in my mind — he selected two packets of Callard and Bowser butterscorch and put them in the haversack on top of what must have been about 60 packets of cigarettes. Then they left. They had been in the shop about 30 seconds. The assistant was still on the telephone - they were on to possible desserts by now - so, very quietly. I left, too, having decided I could make do without any more Curly Wurlys that morning. Two days later, Harry put up a sign. It said: "Only two schoolchildren at one time." The words stable, door and horse come to mind, and so it proved for poor

Those signs are everywhere now, but that was the first one I ever saw. I do believe they were invented by Harry Hedon, failed confectioner and grocer, and that thus I witnessed - and, through my 19-year silence, participated in - a small but significant sociological event.

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Light and shades

Plain lampshades are looking distinctly passé among the new generation of bold designs in adventurous materials. Bare lightbulbs can now be designer dressed in steel creations, sculpted plastic, exotic silks and even zip-on spinnaker fabric. Sophie Chamier sheds light on some of the classiest styles around

From left to right, standing:

Two Zipcode shades by Totem Design, from £45 each. The powder-coated wire frames are covered with brightly coloured zip-on jackets of spinnaker material. Jackets are available separately in red. yellow, white, blue and green (0171-727 3280/0171-243 0692)

Light-in-a-bag Image Lights (complete with all electrical parts), from £19.95. Interchangeable shades, £4.99 each, in 20 different designs ranging from literary quotations to ancient art, from Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-636 1666) and branches; The Gadget Shop, 16 branches nationwide (01482 860860); further stockists (01398 324224)

Zanzibar silk shades in a variety of shapes. sizes and colours, from £35; Casbah lamp stand £99, from Mr Light, 279 King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 8398) and 275 Fulham Road, SW10 (0171-352 7525)

From left to right, hanging:

Taco polypropylene shade, £20, by Vyvyan Rose in red, yellow, blue, green or off-white, from Purves & Purves, 83 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-580 8223) and by mail order from Ocean (0800 132985)

Hand-made paper shades by Andrea Maffin with 22ct gold leaf. Orange Squirl, £45 plus £5 p&p (mail order 0171-284 1224)

Fruit and Veg cone shade, £45 (p&p extra), from Chandellers for the People (mail order 0171-376 4992)

Chris Laughton's spiral-effect shade in aircraft quality plywood, £25 (p&p £1.50), from Elemental (0171-602 3752 for mail order and stockists)

Ribbon chandelier shade in Nory, burgundy, coral or Prussian blue, £35-£39 depending on size, from selected branches of Aliders nationwide (0181-256 7730)

Photograph by Des Jenson. Styling by Caroline Griffiths



IS YOUR HAIR THINNER THAN IT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO?

In a recent survey of 500 women, a staggering 33% reported hair loss.

One of the reasons for hair loss in women is nutritional 10 years's research has now produced on effective supplements
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In a recent survey 33% of women stated they had experienced hair loss in recent years, and that this caused them distress and anxiety. It is perfectly natural to lose some hair every day. But if you feel your hair loss is increasing or you have less halr than you used to, then NutriHair could be

"I have about a third less hair than I used to have. Nobody believes I have a problem because I still have a lot of hair but I know its has changed and I am very warried".

Nutril·lair* could be for you if you can answer yes to any of these questions 1. Do you have less hair than you used to?

2. Does more hair fall out when you shampoo, brush or comb your hair? 3. Is there less hair in your ponytail or the

amount you can dip back The facts about hair growth Hair growth is cyclical. Each hair grows for up to 3 years and is then shed. Its follow

rests for about 12 weeks and then starts growing a new hair. It is normal to lose en 50-150 hairs per day. But, if the three year growth stage shortens, even just a little, there will be an increase in hair shedding. If this continues for several months the amount of hair will become

noticeably less. The warning signs: more hair in the brush, less hair in the ponytail If you are losing more hair than you once were it is usually obvious when washing, brushing or styling your hair.

Causes of increased hair loss There are several possible causes but if you answered yes to one or more of the questions above, then the cause may be a nutritional imbalance. NutriHair



This increases hair shedding by affecting the hair growth cycle. Nutri Hair* has been developed by one of Britain's leading hair specialists and is based on 10 years careful analysis involving hundreds of women. The studies show that the unique combination of ingredients in NutriHair" could make a real erence to the amount of hair you grow.

In trial conditions women using Nutril·lair* noticed some reduction in hair loss three to four months after starting the supplement It can take up to 6 months to see the full

Your first month's supply is free For the quickest results three tablets should be taken daily for the first three months. After that, just one tablet daily should help maintain maximum hair volume. The special introductory offer price of £29.90 - three packs for the price of two gives you enough Nutri Hair for three months. hen one pack at £14.95 will last you

Your money-back guarantee Numitair" is a highly reputable product only available from Nature's Best. Should you complete the 3 month course and notice no benefit we will refund your money in full. However, it is stressed that the full benefits of Nutri Hair" are only seen at 6 months. No other company offers you such a guarantie-for a hair product. It is based on the confidence we have in Nutri Hair".

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'If that Chris Evans comes in here ...

Continued from page I who still view the young pretender to the throne with some wariness. When Mr Jones and Co arrived with a film crew to make a promotional video, and landed the chopper in what you might call the front garden, relations were somewhat strained. Now all is good-tempered, but Mr Jones knows not to assume ton propretorial an air. He rings the doorbell to gain admission to the house which. although his in name, will not be vacated until September.

The lady of the house overhears his comments about moving the kitchen and asks cautiously about the Aga. "I would hate it to end up on a skip," "Oh. no," Mr Jones reassures her, "we've got one of those at home." Her husband is anxious to ensure the future of his notable crop of snowdrops and daffodils, and is at pains to point out the hard realities of maintaining such a large estate.

Wayne, the gardener and handyman, confirms that his employer is a stickler for detail but an old-fashioned gent that he respects. The new regime is a source of some concern: "I don't object to change but this place is unique in its complerely natural feel — it's not too manicured. like some places. Are they really in love with it like I am, or are they just expanding the business?

t Pythouse Club. there are no proprietors to raise objections to Groucho's venture. Rather it was they who approached the London club in a final attempt to salvage a decaying monument to a colourful local history. Sir Heary Rumbold, who lives at nearby Haich and owns the estate, is negotiating the sale of the lease after a series of unsuccessful ventures at the

Those who are old enough recall the Pythouse Club's heyday as the meeting place for local high society after the Second World War: there were whist drives and fetes, pony club camps, treasure hunts. swimming galas, tennis tournaments and mixed hockey. All this plus four dances a year for £6 a year. The vetting of members was not unlike Soho House and Groucho's: two sponsors and your face, or family name, had to fit.



London haven: the drawing room at the Soho House club

because local involvement is

needed to ensure the viability

of the whole venture. About

100 local memberships will be

offered, local produce and staff

sought, the swimming pool will be available for use by the

village school and the cricket

world, says Paul, the caretak-

er, who has experienced

strange visions in his hed-

room, shadowy figures at his

side and the tramping of mar-

ching feet, horses and carts. But he is confident that the

luture looks bright. The ener-

gy is gathering here to take us

forward. This is the time of

truth. It all makes sense - the

drought, Hale-Bopp, the

What doesn't entirely make

sense to some observers is

what the London folk will find

to do in the wilds of Wiltshire

and Somerset. A glance at the

noticeboard in Semley village

stores and post office down the

road from Pythouse reveals

linle other than a Bison and

Bluebell Browse and a basker-

Groucho Club ... "

hould Groucho's en-

counter any opposi-tion it is more likely to

come from the spirit

pitch similarly on offer.

Mrs Phelps, cook and caterer there from 1958, remembers some serious tennis followed by a mass gathering of nunnies and habies for tea at 4 o'clock on the veranda, "Tea, cost is nd. for two sandwiches, a scone and jam and two pieces of cake. When it went up to half a crown they brought their own. They were a mean and nitien lot but we had some wonderful times in the summer season."

What are the locals to make of the newcomers? Some confusion surrounds the identity of the Groucho. Opinion divides between Soho strip joint and society for elderly puets. Talk at the local pub focuses on the desire for a quiet life. "If that Chris Evans comes in here and causes trouble he won't last five minutes," said one. Another, propping up the bar, said: "I come in here and enjoy a quiet drink in lovely countryside. That's why I live here. I don't want bloody Londoners discovering it. This is a pub without juke boxes or

fights; that's how I like it." The main topic is the need for someone to save Pythouse Club and settle the uncertain future of the Pythouse Players cricket team. Ms Sturridge can allay fears on that score.

making workshop. But Ms Sturridge confides: "The girls

Country lovers? Angus Deayton (left) and Chris Evans

will find the car-boot sales and antique shops while the boys pretend to play sport." Lord Talbor, a landowner, says: "If I were to come down to the country I should want to go hunting and shooting. I don't

know if they're up to that." Martin Clunes, a potential man behaving badly at Babington, agrees it would be a disaster: "Let's hope they sort out the gun laws. Media folk with firearms ... oh, God.'

The peace and quiet, he feels. will draw many members away from London, but what kind of a reception can they expect from the inhabitants of nearby Mells, a tranquil village clustered around the Earl of Asquith and Oxford's manor and a 15th-

century coaching inn? Some dichards have already expressed apposition to any appearance of London sophisticutes, but the inn's landlord, Roger Elliott himself confident of attracting many new visitors to his Egon Ronayrecommended restaurant, is sure that Soho House can

weather the local storm. Less certain is how quickly Soho clubbers can pass themselves off as seasoned country folk. Back at Babington, one of Mr Jones's advisers shows off his knowledge of the flora and fauna: "That's a primrose: Those are nettles which can give you a very nasty sting if you touch them. Then you have to go and find a hayleaf."

Angus Deayton, a member of both Soho clubs, sees his weekends taking a new turn. "We'll need wall charts and organised nature trails so we can identify what we're looking at. They both seem like places I'd like to try out. although it seems ironic to go to the country to get away from it all only to surround yourself with the people you

see all week.' But what about the local members with whom he could fraternise? "What would we talk about - vegetables, child-

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dos with style. These information and a wide range as all air.

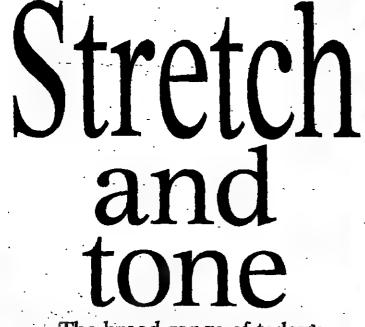
Right Line Tange as a second of the Control of the

ABINE MOTOR-

ren, the weather?" However incompatible the town mouse and the country mouse prove to be, Soho members have given their clubs' move to the country an enthusiastic response. Deayton speaks for many when he says: "I regard the country as something nice to look at. to stroke and pet for a while before returning to London and reality."

6

العددا من الرمولي



The broad range of today's stretch fabrics can give the illusion of an attractive figure-hugging look whatever your size, says Heath Brown

well-shaped body, crop tops and new-look leggings can look sporty and sexy. But skirts should not be

too tight and, if choosing a dress,

ashion is stretched to its fimits with the appetite for tight, expandable clothes.
This figure-hugging style may seem daunting for those with a less than perfect shape, but stretch trousers, tops and skirts can be a good buy, whatever your

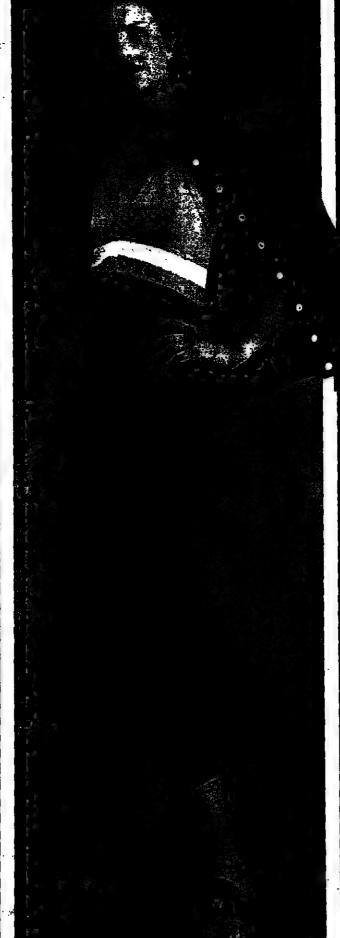
Cotton, wool or silk jersey are the perfect materials, but Dupont, which makes Lycra and Tactel, has produced good quality, versatile, synthetic stretch fabrics that are overtaking natural jersey.

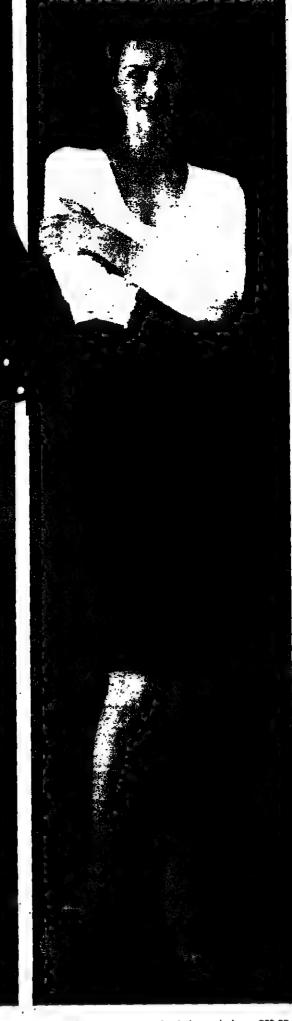
The secret is to buy one size big-ger than usual, making the item slightly loose but still giving the illusion that it is tight.

For example, a long-line stretch jersey tube dress will still ding to the upper and lower body but will hang a little loose elsewhere, giv-ing less emphasis on a wider pelvis or larger bust.

Simple, tight tops and swesters are made to go with stretch slacks, white expandable dresses are teamed with elastic banded shoes. If you are lucky enough to have a









TOP LEFT: Navy stretch top, £30, French Connection, branches nationwide (0171-580 2507). White jersey (0171-629 7606)

MAIN PICTURE: Green/blue print soft stretch T-shirt, £100, Sahza, available at Selfridges (0171-629 5592). Navy stretch Capri pants, £24.99, River Island, as above. Blue nylon thong sandals, £95, Armando Pollini, as above

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Sarah Gottschalk, using Glauca Rossi products (mail order, 0171-289 7485). Styling by Amandip Uppal

ABOVE CENTRE: Blue jersey ecru-stripe heiterneck dress, £29.99, Pinstripe, C&A, branches nationwide (0171-580 3494). Blue fine-rib cardigan, 250, French Connection, branches nationwide (0171-580 2507). Black thong sandals, £29, Cable & Co, branches nationwide (0800 192192) LEFT: detail of ABOVE CENTRE

ABOVE RIGHT: Cream slinky stretch top, £12.99, Knickerbox, branches nationwide (0171-284 1744). Black stretch-cotton skirt, £16.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-998 8822). Black leather open-toe mules, £29, Cable & Co, as above



He's chained up through his sensitive nose and made to walk on red but plates, whilst the back of his legs are bit in time to music. Onlookers taust him and force him to drink beer. Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance' for tourists who pay to watch his agonising waitz.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where they can be free of pain and suffering. But we can't carry out our life-saving work without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you can afford, will help cut the chains of imocent animals. So please send your donation today. He's counting on you.

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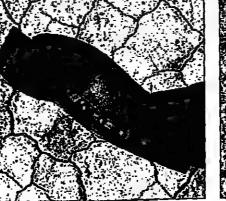
THREE OF A KIND

Wooden soled sandals, or woodies, are clogs with style. These three are the pick of a wide range available. H.B.

Right: Lime green exercise sandals; £24,99, Scholls, branches nationwide (01582 443300)

Centre: Black wooden wedge shoes, £24.99, Next/Next Directory (0345 100500) Far right Suede thong wooden platform shoes. £89.50, Russell & Bromley, selected branches (0171-629 6903)









أعربها فعجسا لاست

Hungry, horrible and living near you — Stephen Anderton on ways to control the mother of all grubs

Beware the evils of weevils

harmsii in pots for years. neat little stronglybranching succulents from Mexico with chunky. tubular orange flowers whose mouths never fully open. And now here they were, just keeling over, I blamed my inlaws who had been housesitting for us. I blamed their dog, I blamed frost. And then. on closer inspection. I blamed the real culprits - vine

The moral of the tale is that you can never look too closely at a sickly plant, even if it means digging it up. Of course I should have realised the problem was vine weevil, parricularly as I know there is an efficient method of getting rid of them, in pots at least.

Adult vine weevils look like miniature black armadillos. just a bit longer and thinner than a ladybird, and the damage they cause to plants rhododendrons. euonymous, hydrangeas and berginias is largely cosmetic — they crawl up and nibble the edges of leaves at night. Generally they are not as harmful as their grubs, which eat roots. in particular they enjoy bego-nias, cyclamen and primula. and because they are busy nibbling underground, it is often only when a plant keels over that the problem becomes

grow half a dozen echeveria plants in a pan by the front door in summer.

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Prepare celery trenches and holes for runner beans and courgettes with old manure or compost.

■ Ensure that lawnmower blades have an undamaged, moderately sharp edge

to get a clean, even cut. Take 3in cuttings of soft herbaceous plants such as achillea and perennial salvias, set lin deep in sandy compost and cover with polythene.

On nights when frost threatens, cover any plants which flower or grow early (magnolias, wall fruit blossom and so on) with polythene, newspaper or fleece.

They stay out until the frosts and are attractive even after flowering. All the attention they ever get is a splash of water every few days and one quick spray to deal with the blackfly, which in some years descend on the flower buds and stalks.

Older plants grow to a foot or more high, but I prefer to see a group of shorter plants which flower just as well but are less likely to blow over on windy days. Plenty of stone and grit in the compost gives

growing in a pan is more secure.

Last autumn the pan of echeverias stood under cover of the porch, and when frost threatened I lifted them in for the night. Then, at this halfway stage before they came in fully for the winter, I had to go abroad, my in-laws came round and when we got back

... well you know the rest. Fortunately echeveria is a great survivor. Tiny white roots began to appear up and down the trunks after a week indoors. Easy then, to chop off these tops, put them in some gritty compost and get them out of that old sour panful well before spring.

ut in pulling apart the panful, the real cause of the problems was revealed. Among the roots were the fat, cream grubs of the vine weevil, half an inch long, sickle-shaped. with a browny-yellow head. There must have been two ozen in that 12in pan.

Vine weevils are much more of a problem now than a few years ago. There are a couple of hefty chemicals to deal with them commercially, but these are not available to amateurs. And buying containerised plants increases the chance of us bringing home grubs in the

The weevil's ideal home is a warm pot of peat-based com-post, preferably planted with

powerful

14.5hp or 16hp

heavy duty build

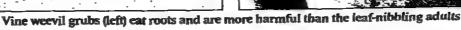
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cyclamen and primulas, the perfect food for its grubs. And they are perfect mothers, every one; there are no male vine weevils, so they all lay eggs.

In the warmth of a preenhouse vine weevils can reproduce all year round, but outdoors there is only one generation, hatching in April and laying eggs through the summer. The adults then die, And this is the moment for gardeners to get at the grubs with biological controls.

Such controls will not work in the cold of a winter garden. but in pots and borders where the soil temperature is above 12C, it is possible to use a microscopic "beneficial" celworm or nematode, which parasitises the grub, swimming in through the natural



Weevils attack echeveria

body openings and killing it within 48 hours by bacterial infection.

Nematodes can be obtained by mail order in a moist

to the soil or pots in August or early September, when the adults should be dead or dying, and while the grubs are active. The nematodes have a short shelf life, and must be

used by the date specified. In cases of heavy infestation. it is helpful to reapply nematodes in spring, for a complete clean-up. Because vine weevils are native creatures and live happily in the garden, they will always come back eventually. But in pots at least, there is no need to despair of control.

 A range of biological controls, including those for vine weevil. is available from: Defenders. Occupation Road. Wye. Ashford. Kent TN35 5EN (D1233 813121) and Green Gardener. 41 Norfolk NR 13 5PG (01603715096)

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

What do you recom-mend for a small orchard infested with woolly aphid? Is there a green remedy? - E.

Hatton, Carlisle, Cumbria. A Woolly aphids colon-ise pruning wounds and hark splits, leading to swelling and sometimes to the admission of canker. Small infestations on one or two young trees can be treated by painting the aphids with methylated spirits and spraying with insecticidal soap. Heavy in-lestations in old orchards do not have a ready solution, green or otherwise. If you wish to use chemicals, try permethrin, dimethoate. and pirimphos-methyl.

What climber do you suggest to cover the north-facing wall of our cottage? The walls are real. dered and have some small cracks, which we do not wish to make any worse. We wondered about the creeper Parthenocissus tricuspidata 'Veitchii', which climbs by suckers, but the red colouring might look angry against next door's bright pink rendering. Would the more delicate P. henryana do as well? — D. Heal, Sanderstead, Surrey.

As self-clinging climbers go, the Chinese relative of Virginia creeper. P. tricuspidata, is probably the least harmful to rendered walls. P. henryana carries its suckers on the ends of longer, softer ten-

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drils and in windy or difficult situations is harder to establish. It works better planted to sprawl into a shrub or tree, or down over a wall. It is also tender, and I would not recommend it for your needs. Both plants colour dark red in autumn, but P. tricuspidata 'Veitchii' also has red young leaves in spring. P. henryana is the more giamorous, with bronze-green leaves and veins picked out in pink or purple. The true Virginia creeper. P. quinquefolia, is tough, rampant, and green in spring and red in au-tumn, but it is a loose clinger and difficult to es-

In relation to hedges, could you explain the terms stilted, pleached and espaliered? - D. Corble, London W8.

A stilted hedge is one with bare stems at the base — on stilts if you like. Pleaching is the horizontal training of branches or twigs to make a screen or windbreak: the effect in summet can be a thin but solid wall of vegetation. An espaliered tree is usually a fruit tree, again with the branches trained horizon-tally, but producing a tiered structure which allows the light in to reach the fruit.

Answers, Weekend. The Times, I Pennington Street. London El 9XN. Advice Is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that any enclosures

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Return of the Victorian playground

Jane Owen finds that many of the gardens at Chelsea this year

will have a 19th

century theme

very May the Chelsea Flower Show sets the agenda for the fashionconscious garden in much the same way as Milan does for the clothes-obsessed

After years when we have seen everything from a black-rubber sex garden to traditional Jekyli creations and wild 18th-century-style landscapes, 1997 hints at the 19th century, with several Victorianstyle gardens being built for the coming show.

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Ostentation and the burst of wealth from the Industrial Revolution brought a new driving force to gardens of the 19th century. By the early 1800s Capability Brown-style landscapes fell from favour to be replaced by elements of formal Italianate gardens: urns, ballustrading and terraces.

With the new-found wealth and the lure of the Empire and beyond, plant-hunters swept the world for the rare and unusual plants that would become the great status symbols. Vast, heated glasshouses were built to grow exotic fruit and display tender flowers. In summer, huge outdoor beds were laid to show the gaudy plants that were all

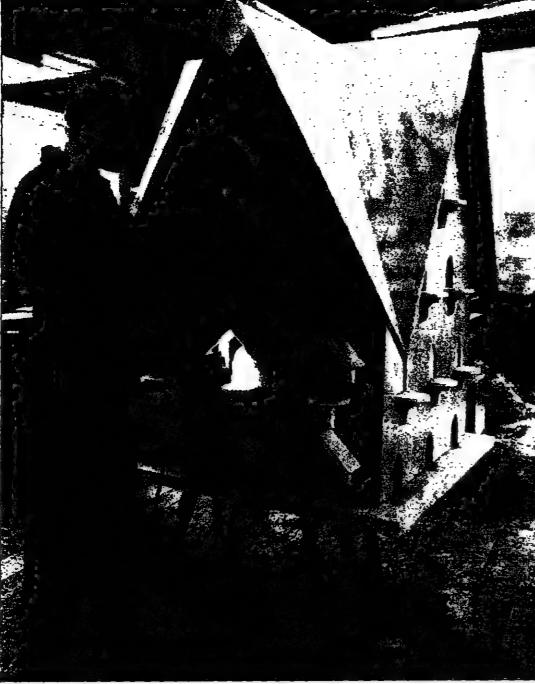
Today, the trend is to grow plants in appropriate positions so that they thrive with as little help as possible. But Victorians grew a staggering range of plants, despite sometimes unsuitable soil or

At best, Victorian gardens were a playground of widely differing styles: stumperies, fern gardens. bedding areas, water gardens and so on, as at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire and Heligan in Cornwall. At worst they were a mishmash of styles and ideas.

Alan Sargent, who has built 30 gardens for the Chelsea Flower Show over the years, is one of those who can pick some of the more. alluring features and turn them into a coherent Victorian-style garden suitable for today.

For instance, intricate flooring patterns were a great favourite and Mr Sargent uses bricks, all kinds of

The Scientific Solution



Carpenter Neil Staton puts the finishing touches to a dovecot for Bradstone's display at Chelsea

stone, cobbles, pavers and tiny pieces of slate upended to make unusual floor surfaces.

This year at Chelsea he is making a Victorian-style garden for Bradstone, using some of its reconstituted stone Victorian-style features: there will be a workshop posing as a timber gazebo filled with reproduction Victorian tools by Hortus Omamenti, a thatched

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dovecot, a bothy, a copper gunneraleaf fountain by Hugh Bowden, a bench from Andrew Crace (probably in the Japanese style favoured late Victorians, although Mr Sargent has yet to make a final decision) and a stumpery planted

All the plants he plans to use would have been available in 1890 and, though the garden may not

use any antique Victorian features, it will certainly give a taste of those heady gardening days for the thousands of visitors.

◆ Alan Sargent, Willow Walk, Petworth, Sussex GU28 OEY 101798 342388). Damian Grounds, Hortus menti, 01243 782 467. Bradst Garden Products, 01335 372222

Gardens to visit, page 20



Victorian gardens were a combination of widely differing styles

AVIENT MIERES A VICTORIAN GARDEN

Horse teeth: these, along with tiles, mosaic, basketweave brick and pebbles, were used to make surfaces for terraces. summerhouses and paths.

■ Edging — typically rope edged tiles: these gave a tidy, clean surround to all borders and lawns, even in small gardens. In cottage gardens, upended oyster packed at the edge of beds.

■ Dahlias and chrysanthemun two of the most popular flowers. Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire had a whole dahlia garden display in a long border with buttresses of yew.

■ Vegetable garden: crucial part of an estate, which was usually self-sufficient. The vege

would be laid out at precise intervals along straight lines.

■ Pampas grass: a great favourite of suburban gardens, and some of the original plants survive.

Apples: the most popular garden fruit.

Glasshouses: in 1845 the tax on glass was abolished and so began an explosion of glasshouse building for fruit, vegetables and flower exotics. Conservatories, too. were popular as a place to sit and to show off prize specimens.

■ Garden gnomes: Sir Charles Isham first introduced them in 1865 to his alpine garden at Lamport Hall, Northants. He was followed by Sir Frank Crisp at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Bird droppings: lots of guano was imported from the Pacific Islands to fuel the hungry plantings of flowers and vegetables. Goose excrement was popular too and, according to the gardeners of Heligan, Cornwall, was regarded as the secret of growing prize dahlias.

Lawns: for tennis, croquet and to set off the dazzling colours of the surrounding bedding.

■ Giant compasses: these were used to give accuracy to bedding

Horn-bandled tools: these were: introduced to give better grip, so Dahlias: 19th-century favourité ... causing less injury to hands.

Win a trip to Chelsea

THE TIMES and Bradstone Garden Landscaping have joined forces to give you a chance to win 75 pairs of tickets to the Cheisea Flower Show in May. Just answer the following questions:

1. The most popular garden fruits in Victorian times were: a piums

b. raspberries

2. The Victorians used guano in their gardens. This is: a. basketweave brick

b. bird droppings c. pampas grass

c. A swing

3. The Bradstone garden at Chelsea will include the following feature:
a. A thatched dovecot b. A waterwheel

Send your answers, with your name, address and a day-time phone number, to: The Times/ Bradstone Chelsea Garden Competition, London SE99 7YA, to arrive by Tuesday, May 6. The first 75 correct entries drawn after this date will each receive two tickets. worth £14 each, for the show on Thursday, May 22, valid

between 3.30pm and 8pm. Normal Times newspaper competition rules a (available on request). Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be en-



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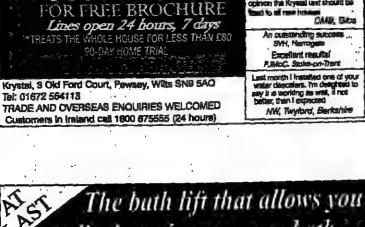


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Rare farm animal breeds are being lost to the passing whims of science and macro-economics in food production. We should save them

A cat may look at a king, so why should an Eriskay pony not have a day out at Buckingham Palace? Especially when there is vital work to be done. A few days ago in the Royal Mews. where proud, upstanding carriage horses are stabled, there stood the less regal but equally dignified pony making a shameless attempt to draw attention to itself. The world needed to know that the

Eriskay ponies need help. The Eriskay is one of a dwindling breed of native pony now under the conserving umbrella of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. This pony was helping to launch an urgent appeal for new members. If an appeal brochure should come your way, you will find me looking out at you from its front cover, which is not to say that I am particularly endangered. More importantly, our Suffolk Punches will be looking you in the eye, getting the message across that they, too, need help.

Of course, you may scoff at the whole idea of endangered breeds as a bit of heritage sentimentality. If so, give some thought to the recent announcement that cows may in future be fed a formulated diet so that the milk they produce will

Beware of meddling with nature result in butter which will spread straight from the fridge. Thank you,

science, for this great step forward: mankind will be free from the anguish of taking butter from the fridge only to find the knife bounces off it. Who knows how many people have turned to drink, drugs or violence faced with such humiliation?

If you have suffered this way, do not think you are to blame. It is, of course, the cow's fault. Said an official from the newly privatised food development arm of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (does not the juxtaposition of the words food, privatised, ministry and development not send shivers through your digestive system?): "Cows are vegetarians and what they eat is full of unsaturated fats, Unfortunately, the animals' digestive system converts unsaturated into saturated fats. So the milk that comes from the cow is high in the wrong kind of fats."

See, cows know nothing: the Ministry

(except, apparently. to the most embarrassing of questions. one of which also involves cows. If I were the Min of Ag. I would be keeping my mouth firmly shut on the subject of bovine

But, as consumers. we are all a bit idle. I, too, have eaten "spreadable" butter. The process now in use at least employs manufacturing techniques and does not meddle with the cows' diet, but it has

nutrition).

diet to suit our human whims. Which is where we return to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. This organisation

caught on and there will be no turning

back. Cows are in for another change of

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

common part of our farming scene until science and macroeconomics took over production of food. The breeds are part of agricultural history: the Large Black and the Gloucester Old Spot pigs. the Red Poll cow, the Norfolk Horn sheep and many others. All these breeds

became "outdated" for one reason or another and were discarded by commercial farmers, who follow fashion in ways that make Edina and Patsy look cautious. Whenever a new breed is developed they grab it eagerly, and it is only years later, when

fashions have changed again, that the

preserves breeds of value of some of the old breeds is appreciated. So we must not let them vanish.

The folly of discarding unfashionable breeds cannot be overstated. To draw a parallel: suppose that, to speed up the transfer of information in a digital age, it was decided that we needed only 20 letters in the alphabet. Would that be good reason to consign to the bonfire all books using the full 26?

o is it sensible or safe to turn our backs on cows which have served us well to develop new ones which might deliver unnecessary items such as spreadable butter, pre-whipped cream, or milk which can't boil over? If farming has made one mistake it is

in forgetting that it was a purtnership between man and nature. It was a game played out on the fields and in the barns; on some days man won, on others nature

had the upper hand. Then came advanced agricultural

science and the balance tipped in favour of the farmer, who could now perform all manner of miracles to save crops from pest and disease, animals from illness, and make fertile land where nothing would flourish. Almost overnight, it

changed to become a master and servant relationship. Or so we thought, because occasionally nature refuses to submit, no matter how right the grip we place on her. Nature

kicked back with mad cow disease, over organo-phosphates, and DDT. If she kicks again, in some unpredicted way, it may be so viciously that we have to submit and retrace what we thought were giant steps forward to regain a

simpler, safer kind of farming. You can spend your money on spreadable butter if you like. But the army of faithful servants headed last week by that Eriskay pony should not be forgotten. We may need them one day.

 Rare Breeds Survival Trust, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG (01203 696551).

Readers' letters are welcome on country.

matters. Write to Paul Heiney, Weekend. The Times, I Pennington Street, London E 19XN.

FEATHER REPORT

Lulu sings again

WOODLARKS are circling and singing over a few fa-voured spots in England. If there is one near you, it will

not be very hard to identify. Skylarks rise from the ground almost vertically, and hang in the air by flying at wind speed into the wind. Woodlarks go up with an awkward. fluttering flight, then circle round high in the sky over a wide area, their song showering down.

The songs are also quite different. The skylark's is a sustained sweet note, slightly monotonous, while the woodlark's is wild and lyrical, with a wonderful, recurrent "lu-lulu" phrase in it. In fact it is called the lulu in France.

Skylarks are common birds of the cornfields and treeless moors, but the woodlark has a much more limited habitat. It needs a wide stretch of bare ground, or ground with very short grass, to feed on, and it needs some scattered trees as look-out posts and songposts. It sings from the top of a tree as often as it does in the sky.



Woodlarks circle the sky

The top spray of a young conifer will sometimes be permanently bent from a woodlark sitting on it.

For that reason it is restricted to the kind of heathland edge where the ground is scarred by fires or military manoeuvres, or the grass is nibbled by rabbits. Among the few places where it is found today are some of the West Country heaths, the Surrey-Hampshire border. and the Brecklands.

IT IS A BIRD I always love to come across, for its song above all, but also for its confiding ways. When you flush one from the ground in the breeding season, it goes up with a liquid triple note. then lands not far off on the ground or on a dead bush.

Here you can easily see the features that distinguish it from a skylark - the white eye-stripe, the fine bill, and the short, square tail. The skylark is sturdier, and has a

long tail with white edges. The pair keep very close together in the nesting season. and except when the female is incubating, as soon as you spot one you generally see the other. Their nest is a wellwoven cup made of moss and grass stalks, and hidden in a clump of heather, and the female lays three or four eggs spotted with rusty brown. Both parents look after their young - and these friendly birds have sometimes been observed feeding their

nestlings side by side. DERWENT MAY • What's about: Birders - listen for garden warblers in woodlands. Twitchers — glossy thises at Pilling, Lancashire; woodchat shrike at Reculver, Kent: black kite at Witney. Oxforáshire. Details from Riedline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute



Carving through the forest

wenty years ago, if you went to the forest for a day out, it would be to see the trees and wildlife. Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have flocked to many of our forests for entirely different reasons. Amble through the woods at Grizedale in the Lake District, for instance, and you might come across a circus, a harbour, a company of wolves, a waterwheel. or even a wall going for a walk. They are all forest sculptures, and have become a dramatic means of draw-

ing people into the country.

More than 15,000 Japanese tourists a year visit the Lake District and, for most of them, the big draw is Hill Top, the house at Near Sawrey where Beatrix Potter lived at one time

But Peter Rabbit's creator was not why Shigeo Toya came to Cumbria. Over the past two weeks, the Japanese artist has been working on an environmental sculpture called Underground Tree, the first in a series of ten works planned for a mile-long international sculpture trail at Grizedale.

There is sculpture, too, in Forestry Commission woods in other parts of Britain - the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, Cowleaze Wood in the Chiltern Hills. Buckinghamshire, and the Tyrebagger Sculpture Project at Kirkhill Forest near Aberdeen, for instance - but Grizedale, which won the Prudential Award for the Arts in 1990, is

regarded as the daddy of them all. The first piece of sculpture went in 20 years ago and since then more than 200 others have been created. Of these, about 80 can be seen now. because time and the elements have taken their toll.

n terms of attracting visitors. Grizedale, with its two established trails (and a theatre). has been a huge success. In 1963, when the Forestry Commission first allowed public access to the woods, about 500 people turned up. Today, visitors total about

350.000 a year. Bill Grant, the director of the Grizedale Society, the charity which runs the trails, says: "I thought sculpture was a good way of using the forest, and that the woods were a less intimidating place than a gal-

lery to show sculpture." Mr Grant believes the sculptures play a catalytic role in encouraging people to appreciate wildlife and flora. There are 9,500 acres of forest at Grizedale with red deer, rue deer.

Christian Dymond finds there's more to a wood than trees these days. Thanks to environmental artists you could see bison, wolves and even a wall that went for a walk





Segmented Sitka by Keith Rand; European Bison by Sally Matthews: The Wall That Went For A Walk by Andy Goldsworthy

pied flycatchers, falcons, hawks and an abundance of other wildlife. So when people are looking for the sculptures they can't help but take in and appreciate the environment around them." he says.

In the Forest of Dean, the impetus for a sculpture trail came from the desire to attract people deeper into

its magic and mystery", says Martin Orrom, the chairman of the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust.

the forest "so that they could enjoy

The trail, he says, has a sense of the treasure hunt, which makes visitors look closer at the woods and The 27,000-acre forest has sweet

chestnut, ash, beech, conifers and a huge number of ancient oaks

JANE SPENCER

among its millions of trees. It is also home to buzzards, percerine falcons, sparrowhawks, pied flycatchers, owls, loxes and fallow deer. The sculpture trail was opened in 1986 and at present has 12 pieces, though

75.000 visitors a year. "We felt that sculptures, more so than nature trails, were the best way

more will be added. It attracts

to interpret the special history and wildlife of this place. Every piece. therefore, has to relate to the locality." Mr Orrom says.

Consequently, a work called Iron Road by Keir Smith is composed of 20 old railway sleepers lying on the bed of a disused railway track and carved with images relating either to the forest's industrial past (coal

ON THE SPOT : SOUTHWEST GUERNSEY

The place: Pleinmont Point on the southwestern corner of Guernsey. The view: Looking westwards you can make out the angry while tips of waves on a line of reefs called Les Hanois - the grave to many

a ship and marked by the 1802 Hanois

Lighthouse. To the north is Guernsey's largest bay. Rocquaine. The appeal: My mother recalls watching the ocean roll and crash in the post-storm grumbles of a bright November morning: I was born that evening. It has a magical atmosphere, with fairy rings of toadstools,

and I made wishes in them as a child. Aficionados: Wish-makers, murists to the ruined eastle and locals looking for peace

Historical interest: The ruined castle of Peteries stands, in the shape of a star, on the headland. At the foot of the cliff is a circle of stones, which are thought to be of prehistoric origin and known as Le Table des Pions (the footmen's table).

Time to visit: Seductive in mid-winter and at its bleakest. Best time is just after a storm when the waves are wild and the wind is blustery enough to blow away any cobwebs. OS reference: There is no ordnance survey map of Guernsey, but Pleinmont Point can be found in the island's Perry's Guide. How to get there: Fly from most UK

airports, ferry from south coast ports. Also nearby: Fort Grey in Rocquaine Bay. an early 18th-century constal tower, now a maritime museum. But, being only 24 quare miles, the whole island is nearby.

VICTORIA WALKER

■ Grizedale Forest, three miles south of (01229 \$60291), has two trails: the nine and ahalf-mile Silurian Way and the half-mile Riddings Wood trail for

FACT FILE

the elderly and disabled The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail (01594 833057), 20 miles southwest of Gloucester, is three and a half miles long and starts from Beechenhurst Lodge picnic site, off the B4226,

west of Speech House. ■ The Chiltern Sculpture Trail (01865 723684) is at Cowleaze Wood, near Junctions 5 and 6 of the M40. The two-mile trail starts at a car park about two miles north of Christmas Common.

■ Tyrebagger Sculpture Project (01330 844537). Kirkhill Forest, is about four miles northwest of Aberdeen, beside the A96. It has seven artworks, including five European Bison, by Saily Matthews. She also has three pieces at Grizedale Forest, one cailed Woives.

Kielder Castle Forest Park Centre (01434 250209), about 36 miles north of Hexham. Northumberland, on the B6320/C200, has a small number of sculptures, but expects more this year.

and iron) or its abundant wildlife. There is also Black Dome, which is made of 900 charred larch stakes sunk into the ground. These reflect the ancient forest craft of making

charcoal. The Chiltern Sculpture Trail in the 70-acre Cowleaze Wood, west of High Wycombe and close to the M40, was started for a different reason: that of searching for alternative spaces to galleries where arrists could site their work.

"If you ask some people if they want to visit an art gallery they'll just groan, but if you say come for a walk in the forest and see some sculptures they'll jump at it," says Sheena Etches, the director of the Chiltern Sculpture Trust.

collection of 25 works is on display at Cowleaze, with two or three being replaced every year. About 50,000 people a year visit the trail. The sculptures, often using steel and synthetic fabrics, as well as wood. and stone, are created specifically for their site but do not have to be made in the wood.

This differs from Grizedale. where all art works have to be made on site, using a high proportion of materials found locally. Three pieces by the internationally renowned artist Andy Goldsworthy -Seven Spires. Sidewinder and The Wall That Went For A Walk - are composed of little more than wood or stone.

The first two pieces, made more than ten years ago, were Mr Goldsworthy's first big projects after leaving college. He is now involved in a project in Cumbria using 100 sheepfolds as places for both permanent and ephemeral sculptures.

For his work at Grizedale, Shigeo Toya has taken a huge windfall tree, trimmed and cleaned its roots, cut off the trunk at 6ft, moved it to a different location in the forest and upended it, burying the stump in the earth. Rocks and smaller stones have been placed under the canopy of roots.

This may be one of the last sculptures Mr Grant organises before retirement, At 78, with an OBE for services to the environment and the arts, he is soon to step down. Although he was away for some years during the Second World War, it is 60) years since he first came to Grizedale as a student

There is no doubt that he has left a dramatic legacy.

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Haven on Ruskin's heavenly highway

Alex O'Connell takes the Barmouth road to a beguiling house in the Welsh hills



Time to relax on the Chinese Room settee at Glan Mawddach

road from Barmouth to Dolgellau in North Wales was so beautiful that it was surpassed only by the road from Dolgellau to Barmouth. Luckily there is no alternative route to Glan Mawddach. The drive up to the steep hillside on the north of the Mawddach estuary, with views of the estuary and Calder Idris to the southern side, simply took my breath away — like eating four extra strong mints at the same time. Surrounded by trolicking lambs, sun-dappled water and cornflower blue chief. I felt I had died and blue skies, I felt I had died and stepped into one of those soft-focus posters found on the walls of happy-clappy church halls.

Glan Mawddach is an elegant Regency house reached by a sweeping gravel drive. It was owned, until his death in 1989, by Sir William Clayton Russon, who was instrumental in the wartime Dig For Victory campaign which encouraged people to grow their own vegetables, and whose love of gardening made him wish for a home with very particular grounds. He first viewed the house in 1943 and fell in love with it, but was almost pipped to the auction post by an MP. Luckily for Sir William. the MP was delayed by a late-night sitting at Westminster and an air raid, and arrived just as his rival signed the completion papers.

It is hard to imagine how anyone could not develop a serious crush on this location. The house does not perch on top of the hill but fits snug as a bug into a plateau cut into the hillside.

The house is spacious with five bedrooms, a self-contained flat and a sprinkling of outbuildings.

Downstairs is a large drawing room with a marble hearth, plaster mouldings and the sort of view that I had previously thought existed only in Cinemascope. Next door, remarkably like the other rooms worktops that probably feature in ten minutes."



The perfectly symmetrical pond garden is in a cool, leafy glade

but for its two elaborately-painted bird panels.

The conservatory, a 1950s add-on with polished stone floors, is reached from the dining room through French windows. Lined with jasmine and camellia, it is a highly successful suntrap.

Follow your nose to the back of the house and you find a large, sunny kitchen with quarry-tiled

the erotic dreams of Elle Decoration subscribers.

The Weish Parlour is cool and dark, and contains an impressive traditional stove complete with genuine iron pots and brass implements, and a huge payphone. I wondered why the two items of equipment shared this space, half expecting the telephone to ring with a request from Challenge Anneka: "We need a dozen Welsh cakes in



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Glan Mawddach, Mawddach Estuary, Snowdonia National Park Wales. Price: Offers in the region of £410,000. Travel: Train to Machynileth and Barmouth. Beautiful drive up to the house. Shopping: Local produce in Barmouth and Doigellau, cockles from the estuary, Chester and Shrawsbury for chain stores.

• Entertainment: The George Hotel on the other side of the astuary is Epon Ronay recommended. Plenty of hill walking in the area. Chester and Shrewsbury for cinemas and theatre.

Upstairs the bedrooms are light and spacious, although the pink carpet is a too redolent of a small girl's bedroom for my taste.

A two-bedroom, self-contained flat sits at the top of the house. The present owners often rent it out, and it has the best views of all - its position enables you to look right up the estuary.

The gardens are diverse, original and well-kept, veined with steep and winding mossy stone paths beautiful dovecot. Alas, dove-fancy- to the east of the house is lined with with Knight Frank (01904 671672).

which strain the calf muscles. The wrought-iron gates are guarded by two austere stone kestrels, marking the start of the azalea walk which leads to the fountain garden. The nearby topiary looks touched by the hand of Buddha: five trimmed bushes depict various stages of avian development, starting (naturally) with an egg and ending up

with a fully fledged bird. Around the corner lies a most

ing is no longer de rigueur for most homeowners and the structure is empty and in need of attention.

From its vantage point on a plateau, the house looks out across the Mawddach estuary

although perhaps that is its charm.

The pond garden is perfectly symmetrical and a path leads out to small stone swimming pool. shielded by trees and bushes for the benefit of the modest bather, and a perfect suntrap. Fed by streams, the pure water is as clear as glass. The balustraded, flagged Italian terrace antique terracotta pots, brought back from Italy by Lady Russon. It is the perfect vantage point on which to pour yourself a drink and watch the sun set to a soundtrack of lapping water.

• Agent: Jackson-Stops & Staff (01244 328361).

THE AGENT for last week's house of the week, Elm Lodge in Cumbria, is Tim Blenkin in association

■ THE Old Vicarage Cottage in Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk, which was painted by John Constable, is for sale, Amanda Loose writes. The thatched roof of Constable's day has been replaced with slate, but the four-bedroom cottage is being sold part-leasehold for a term of 1,000 years from April 20, 1653, at a peppercorn rent. Offers in the region of £175,000. For information, contact Savills

PROPERTIES in Battersea and Putney, southwest London, are taking an average of two weeks to sell, according to

PROPERTY NEWS

the latest London market report from Foxton's, and first-time buyers are out in force, with money to spend. A twobedroom garden flat in Bennerley Road, SWII has just sold to a first-time buyer for £185,000, nearly £40,000 more than it sold for last year.

#HYDON RIDGE, near Hambledon in Surrey, is for sale. Built in 1911, the property has 6.75 acres of grounds which were originally designed by Gentrude

Jekyll, and the dovecote has weathervane designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens which depicts Gertrude Jekyli as an angel. Guide price: £1.5 million. Contact Browns on 01483 267070.

MORE buyers are looking for unusual properties, according to Guy Foster of Friend & Falcke in Clapham, south London. "Buyers have turned away from conventional properties and now want something different, such as huge windows or a galleried reception room. Such properties are selling quickly and at higher prices," he says.

parking.

garage.

David Forbes of Chester-

field reckons 75 per cent of his

customers stimulate that the property they buy must have

Simon Ayrton of Friend & Faicke's Beigravia office

agrees: "Off-street parking is

often one of the top five must-haves for those looking to

buy a substantial family

the top end of the market will

consider spending an addi-tional couple of hundred

thousand pounds to acquire

a mews house, just so they can have the use of its

Parking is obviously at a

premium in prime locations

such as Kensington. Chelsea and Knightsbridge, says Lor-na Vestey of Knight Frank -

and anyone who has driven

through Fulham will know

there are too many multi-car

But parking is also highly sought-after in areas where it is sim-

ply not safe to leave your car

on the road, Ms Beaney says.

Parking is also a hot topic in many historic cities, espe-cially Oxford, where the pres-

sure is almost as great as in

the capital, says Huw War-

flatsharers in the area.

"We find many buyers at

house in Belgravia.

PROPERTY

and the profession on the second like the

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HADLEY WOOD Linuary house set in approx 1 acts, 8 bedrooms, 5 on suite, 6 receptions, gym. utility, games room, double garage. 28tr CCTV, video entry. 160ft fromage, electric gates. £1.3 million.

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SELLING POINTS

PARKING

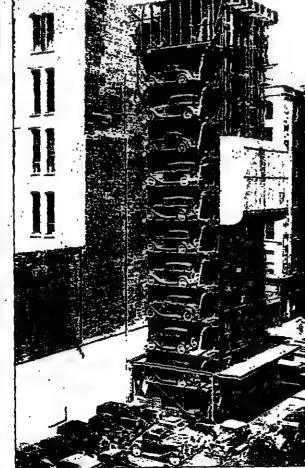
f you're ever tempted to turn your garage into an Lextra bedroom, games room or even a much-coveted mini-gym with sauna, think again. Parking space is highly sought-after by househunters, with many willing to pay well over the odds to keep their cars off the road -especially in the capital where, according to agents Beaney Pearce, some vehicles may be broken into or stolen twice in one year.

If you buy a house with a garage, keep the garage, says Julian Ash of Chestertons Residential "Many mews owners consider converting their garage into living space, thinking this will add to the value of the property. But they would be advised to retain the garage space which, in my view, has a much higher value than an extra bedroom," he says.

A garage can add a 50 per cent premium to the price of a prime central London house, says Ed Mead of Douglas & Gordon, with many garages going for more than a house in the provinces.

For the same price as an off-street space in prime cen-tral London, you could purchase a terraced house in Middlesbrough, according to the latest Land Registry figures. A garage in Chelsea can cost as much as a detached house in Pembrokeshire. Indeed, Mayfair agents

Wetherall have just sold seven car parking spaces off Grosvenor Square for £30,000 per space to a single buyer. Douglas & Gordon



Parking madness: in cities today, every space counts

sold a garage in Dilke Street, Chelsea, for £65,000 on a 29-

year lease. Just down the road, a buyer made an offer of more than E500,000 last month for a house with a double garage — over £100,000 more than the selling price of houses in the same area without a

garage, say agents Aylesford. There is nothing unusual about this, says Linda Beaney of Beaney Pearce, who recently had an inquiry from a resident of the Albert

Hall Studios in Kensington, west London, who wanted to buy another unmodernised flat in the same block, simply

that came with it. "Finding garages in cen-tral London is like looking for

to get the two parking spaces

a needle in a haystack. For many Londoners, off-street parking is a prerequisite when house-hunting, to the point that they will sacrifice space or the location to get their cars off the road," Ms

ren of Cluttons. "A parking space can make a difference of between £10,000 and £15,000 on a £100,000 flat. and an extra £20,000 to house with off-street parking."

Even in Lewes, East Sussex, parking spaces com-mand a premium, with garages adding as much as 10 per cent to the value of a

property, according to John Husband of the local Humberts office. When they put it like that. forgoing a games room seems no hardship.

AMANDA LOOSE

FOR SALE

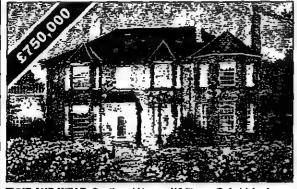
FOR ENTERTAINING



LONDON: Elgin House, Hill Street, Mayfair, W1. Grade !! listed building providing 16,700 sq ft of accommodation, including a grand staircase and four vast reception rooms opening onto a large west-facing garden and additional communal gardens. The property is currently made up of three office floors and four residential apartments. About £8 million for a 120-year lease (De Groot Collis, 0171-235 8090).



OXFORDSHIRE: The Pusey Estate, near Faringdon. Residential and agricultural estate in 1,585 acres, with a Grade II* listed Georgian house in classical gardens, parkland, farmland and woodland. Main house with 12 bedrooms, seven bathrooms. five reception rooms (including a 54ft by 20ft drawing room), domestic offices, staff flat, billiard room, shoot room and a swimming pool complex. Fermhouse, stabling and 14 cottage About £8.5 million (Knight Frank, 0171-529 8171 and Strutt & Parker, 0171-829 7282)



TYNE AND WEAR: Southend House, Whitburn, Refurbished Victorian mansion house with a leieure suite, set in four scres of en suite), four reception rooms, leisure suite with ballroom-(43ft by 24ft 3in), snooker room, bar and swimming pool complex. Stable block and garaging, About £750,000 (Saville, 01904 620731).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Home comforts abroad

olidays abroad can be expensive and hotel life is not exactly homely. So before you book your next break, why not consider swapping your house with someone looking for a holiday in Britain?

House-swapping can be particularly attractive if you own a second home but would like a change from going there every year.

The idea of holidaying by swap-

ping your home for another somewhere else in the world sounds appealing, however, many people have reservations about the idea — after all, a home is a very valuable

There are several home exchange programmes in Britain, all of which operate on varying scales. Those that are particularly thorough in their attention to detail and small enough to keep control over their operations include Worldwide Home Exchange, founded in 1982. From 25 members in its first year, it has grown to about 1,500 now, covering 35 countries. Two other small operations are

Two other small operations are Home Base Holidays, started in 1986 by Lois Sealy, and Intervac International, which was founded 40 years ago by the mother-in-law of the present owner, Rhona Nayar. Members pay an annual subscription which entitles them to a listing in the exchange directories, published three times a year. (Worldwide Home Exchange has two and a supplement, and Intervac a late-exchange service. and Intervac a late-exchange service. Home Base has international linkages to other exchange clubs and programmes.)

Those who participate in home exchanges are mainly professional people, with or without children, and retired people. Homes vary but Ms Nayar says, "You don't have to have a luxurious house to take part in a swap. The main thing is that it is warm and inviting."
Properties range from flats and

condominiums to houses, mansions and estates, and people do not always want to swap like for like. One man swapped a large estate in Barbados for a one-bedroom apartment in Colorado. All he wanted was to ski. Lecturers Paul and Judith Stafford,

of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, have swapped their home three times

Hotel bills are a thing of the past for many families who choose to enjoy holidays

worldwide by swapping houses



with families in America through Home Base. Mrs Stafford says: "The first time we had a two-bedroom flat in Walthamstow, northeast London. which we swapped for a holiday home in Massachusetts near a lake, complete with canoe. We had a Fiat 127; the people we swapped with had a Space Cruiser."

The nature of the Staffords' work means that they can take long holidays, but with two children they would find hotel bills over five or six weeks prohibitive.

"If you are saddled with a mortgage, you might as well turn it into an asset and use it as a means to travel."

Mrs Stafford says. "We might not bother with all the organisation involved if it was only for a two-week holiday, but for a longer time it is well

"Since we have had the children we

have swapped with families with children of a similar age, which is a great advantage, because everything is set up for you - car seats, baby chairs, toys, books, babysitters."

ll exchange organisers advise members to imagine being a visitor to their home when describing the region and what it offers in terms of interest and activities. Some exchanges include cars, in which case the names of your visitors can be added to your insurance policy, and it is advisable to let your insurers know that you have people staying (much better than leaving an empty house).

Exchange programmes advise on telephone bills, food shopping and wages for cleaners. Good ones also provide plenty of information to smooth out cultural differences and

Paul and Judith Stafford, above. with their children Florence and Joseph. Left, the house in Charleston, South Carolina, for which they swapped their home in Kingston, Surrey

prevent confusion over plumbing and electricity. One couple who went to America flooded the house because they didn't understand the automatic sprinkler and plumbing system. If a house is damaged, offenders are immediately struck off the list. Some exchanges offer insurance against this happening but with small, well-organised exchange companies, these incidents are rare and companies such as Intervac and Worldwide

report few "blacklistings".

Mrs Stalford says: "If people are
terribly worried about their valuables. I would say don't do it, but we just put away things like special glasses and treasured wedding presents. It is important to enter into detailed correspondence with the people you are swapping with, so that you feel comfortable about things.

There have been minor problems.
One family let plants die in the garden because they forgot to water, another time a child's buggy was broken, but these things seem very unimportant when you weigh them against the great holidays we had."

To increase the chances of acquiring your first preference, it is most important to apply early. Some destinations are more sought after than others; Italy and France, for instance, are always popular and America has become increasingly so. Three months is the ideal time to allow for planning, but this can be

much shorter. The best strategy is to comb through a home-swap directory and start making contact with owners of homes in locations you are interested in. When listing your holiday location preferences, say the programme organisers, it is best to be flexible and open to suggestions. For example, if you are looking at America and someone from South

Africa contacts you, always consider the possibility.

Another recommendation is for exchangers to meet, if possible, and many long-standing friendships have developed from this. Generally, home exchangers work hard to make visitors welcome. On their return, one English couple even threw a party for their American exchangers and invited everyone who had met them during their stay, including the postman and the milkman.

KERRYN BROOKER

FACT FILE

■ Worldwide Home Exchange Club (Milly Baer), 50 Hans Cresent, London SWIX ONA (0171-823 9937); annual subscription. £29. Home Base Holidays (Lois

Sealey), 7 Park Avenue, London N13 5PG (0181-886 8752, fax 0181-482 4258. e-mail 100522.2733@compuserve.com); subscription varies up to £75.

Intervac International (Rhona Nayar), 3 Orchard Court, North Wraxall, near Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7AD (01225 892208, fax 01225 892011, e-mail intervac. gb@msn.com); subscription £65.

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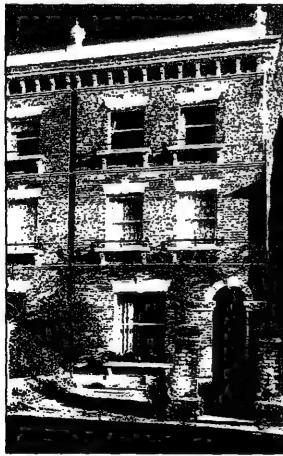
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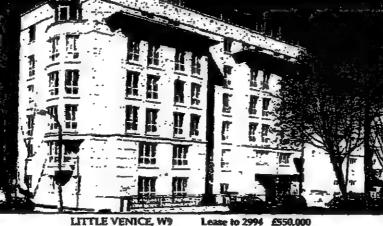
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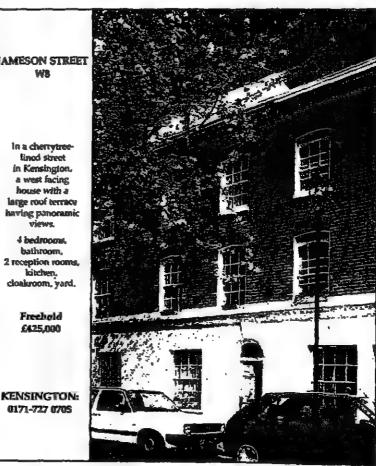
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Following in father's footsteps

Richard Beeston

may have wanted to go his own way

but journalism was in his blood

The veteran Middle East correspondent paused for a moment, averted his eyes from the bland Iraqi landscape passing our taxi window, and examined my face closely through a

pair of smudged glasses.
"You did say Richard Beeston?"
he asked, a puzzled look on his face. The first time I visited Baghdad about 30 years ago I was also travelling with a Richard Beeston. He's not your father, is he?"

At this point it dawned on the unfortunate journalist that he had spent half of his life chasing wars and coup attempts over the barren Iraqi desert, so I did not have the heart to tell him that I was actually born during that first trip to Baghdad. In fact. my mother named me after my father in desperation. He was out of contact for the first weeks of my life and could not be consulted on my Christian name.

While the backdrop to this text conversation, at the height of the Gulf War in 1991, was more memorable than most, there are countless other times when my name has triggered similar responses around the globe. A barman in Beirut, a diplomat in Islamabad, a spy in Washington and journalists in just about every corner of the world greet me with fond memories of my father's exploits, tinged with remorse that those days of telex machines, lunchtime martinis and Cold War skulduggery are behind them.

Dicky, as he is known by his friends, his children and even his grandchildren, belongs to that gen-



Like father, like son: the two Richards both became correspondents

eration of foreign correspondents who modelled themselves on the humorous, cynical and self-deprecating characters in Evelyn Waugh's Scoop. Before the advent of satellite telephones, cable television and the Internet, they were the shock troops of news reporting in a period now regarded as a golden age of print journalism.

s a boy growing up in Africa, the Middle East, America and Russia it never occurred to me that would one day follow in my father's footsteps. Seen through the eyes of a child, the work of a foreign correspondent never really seemed serious. Pilots flew planes, soldiers went to war and cops caught robbers. But foreign correspondents never appeared to do that much. Occasionally, there would be a call in the middle of the night followed by the frantic sound of a clattering telex machine. But the rest of the time seemed to be spent listening to the BBC World Service. playing tennis and packing in a hectic schedule of lunches, drinks parties and dinners. And my father rarely delivered any career advice, except to boast that "journalism beats working".

When he returned from a stint

covering the Vietnam War, I was more interested in the exotic Vietnamese peasant that he brought home than any stories about the conflict. When he covered the dramatic disintegration of the Nixon Presidency, my only memories were of travelling down to Miami in the White House press plane for an unscheduled beach holiday. thanks to the American leader's regular meetings with Bebe Rebozo, his millionaire crony in the Florida Keys.

Even at school, I never thought of myself as having a glamorous father until my media-conscious headmaster, neatly side-stepping my chequered school career, began introducing me to the parents of prospective students, with the openng line: "Richard's father is the Telegraph's man in Moscow."

More than a decade ago, when I went into journalism myself, I did so intent on making my own way and allowing the news and Fleet Street to dictate the course of my career. But, on reading my father's memoirs, Looking for Trouble: The Life and Times of a Foreign Correspondent, I am left with the uncanny feeling that some unseen editorial deity is guiding me along the well-trodden path that my



My opening into journalism cannot have been more accidental. answered a tiny notice in the UK Press Gazette advertising for jour-nalists needed for a small Englishlanguage newspaper in Beirut.

A week later I found myself in the middle of a civil war, which had just reignited following the with-drawal of the last US Marines. My father had covered the first disturbances, between many of the same groups in Lebanon, in 1958 when the US Marines had landed with

Later, during the Iran-Iraq war I reported on the terrible chemical apons attack on an Iraqi Kurd-

ish village, while my father had broken the story of poison gas used by the Egyptians on villages during the conflict in the Yemen.

Today, as I write about post-Soviet Russia for The Times from Moscow, where the health of the Kremlin leader and the problem of corruption still provide a steady flow of stories. I am often reminded of the period in the late 1970s when my father covered the final days of the Brezhnev era.

What separates us, is that my father was a foreign correspondent for more than 30 years of revolutions, wars and elections. Quite apart from the major events he

glamorous side of the work. Behind the stories are the thousands of miles spent in bone-rattling taxis. the hours of dictating copy across crackling phone lines, the negotiations with obstructive officials for visas and the endless battles with

His stamina is amazing. The prospect of another 20 years on the road certainly fills me full of dread and even has me worried about the future of my own children.

censorship.

My son — born in Jerusalem, christened in Rome and schooled in Moscow — is already showing the first dangerous symptoms of the

journalism bug. He calls me excit-edly every time President Yeltsin's motorcade drives past our flat in Moscow. When he visits my office he instinctively begins bashing out letters on an old portable typewriter, not unlike the one used by my

For now, though, he stands firm in his commitment to become an engine driver. Jack's saving grace may be that he is not called Richard

 Looking for Trouble: The Life and Times of a Foreign Correspondent by Richard Beeston will be published by Brassey's in June, price £ 19.95.

Jill Parkin on what became of the dogs in the adoption column

very week, a pair of give-me-a-home eyes looks out from this page. Hopes are raised and heartstrings are tugged. But where are they now, those pets who appeared in our weekly adoption column?

We've traced a few of them. to find out how they and their new owners have sertled down. Adopted dogs are likely to be surprise packets, but our random selection found noth-

ing but wagging tails. In the past five months, Ben. a 12-year-old collie cross who was rescued by the National Canine Defence League after being dumped on the seafront at Worthing, West Sussex, has grown used to a fine lifestyle. with town and country homes. He was adopted by Sir Pere-

Whatever happened to Banjo and Louie?

issue of Weekend and the less attractive one. Sir Peregrine, a retired amlopsided, one ear up and other

"He was a bit disoriented,

bassador, says: "Ben isn't a handsome dog. He's rather one down, and he's pretty deaf. We knew no one would choose him, so we decided to give him a home.

grine and Lady Rhodes, who looked at two dogs pictured with the journey from London bark when he came here. He side by side in an October to Suffolk and loves running around there. He's graterul and happy."

nervous and shaky, but he's

JESSICA has been spoilt in

the past and will be a lovely

dog once she learns she

can't always have her own

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Jessica loves treats

Louie the lurcher cross bounces about the countryside around Stella Smith's converted barn in Warbleton, Sussex.

He was the only one of his litter left at the RSPCA in Willesden, north London, where they described him as "boisterous and overexcited at times". When Mrs Smith adopted him in February he was seven months old with

what she calls "bad habits". There is no doubt that dog lovers are a breed apart. Mrs Smith says: "He was a terrible biter. He bit me quite a few times. I just kept telling him 'no', and he stopped. I didn't smack him, because I don't

believe in smacking dogs." Danny, seven years old and 65lb of what seems to be mixed labrador and alsatian, is Christine Resworthy's first rescue dog. She says: "It's true you never know what you're taking on. You have to he cautious, especially if you have young children. But it has been tremendous.

"Danny was quite fright-

iard dog. And ne's th best Frisbee player in the world," she says.

Torvin and Janice Simpson, who run a hire and repair shop in Surrey, have two daughters. aged eight and six. They now also have Banjo, an eight-yearold alsatian cross who was abandoned covered in fleas and in poor health.

Mrs Simpson says: "He suits us very well because he's not too frisky. He's been well trained already and he is very placid. He has made himself at home. We've been lucky. The children wanted a dog and Banjo is just right for the

Vera Mercer, of Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, has just retired from teaching. Freedom was what she expected. Then she saw Flo and Vi. aged ten and II. They are mother and daughter collie crosses. A notice attached to their quarters at the RSPCA in Leybourne, Kent, said "Can you give us a home in our twilight years?" Vera showed the picture to

MEMORIALS

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Sir Peregrine and Lady Rhodes with Ben (left) and Karen Trueman with Corrie

her husband Brian and their daughter Caroline, because Flo, the daughter dog, looks so much like their previous dog. "I was trying to be practical and thinking of all the reasons against having a pair of hounds, But when we went to have a look, they were half the size we expected. Vi thinks of herself as a recycled teenager and wants to play: For is the beautiful one and preens herself all the time.

This wasn't what I'd planned for my retirement.

But we have no regrets and we haven't had a minute's trouble.

> Corrie, a collie alsatian cross aged somewhere between nine and 12, didn't so much tug on the heartstrings as worry them to breaking point. At least, that's what Karen Trueman felt. "It was the fact that he'd been in the kennels so long."

says Miss Trueman. Gravesend in Kent, who adopted him in October, "He'd been waiting seven years for a home. I thought 'I must have him'. He'd come in as a stray. He's really friendly, and he came running up to me. his tail wagging. You wouldn't believe he'd been in there so long. He's still really trusting

• Next weekend. May 3-4, will see the first Pet Adoptathon in more than 1,200 animal rescue centres in Europe, America and Cunada. For details of your nearest participating rescue centre call the Adoptuthan Hotline on

and loving."

A VET WELLES

Two years ago, my black cat, Heidi, was string on ber back by a wasp. She was very distressed at the time, but my vet assured me she would settle down. But ever ince she has had awful bouts of twitching, running round the house trying to lick her

The verblames fless but she is groomed every day and I although she may have the odd one. I wonder if it stems from the wasp sting. What do

A It's not easy to diagnose skin problems when you haven't seen the cat, but your vet's explanation of flea allergy is much more credible than blaming the residual effects of a wasp sting that happened more than two years ago.

Some cats are hypersensitive to flea saliva and one bite will set off the acute irritation shown by Heidi. Another cat might have dozens of fleas and just scratch from time to time. Ask your vet to suggest a

flea control programme and persist with it for a few months. I'm sure that's the way to give Heidi a twitch-free

JAMES ALLCOCK Write to The Times Vet. Weekend. The Times, I Pennington Street, London El. 9.N.N. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. No

correspondence can be

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'At what point, I wonder, do boisterous boys and girlsterous girls turn into self-important men and self-effacing women?"

omen are natural-born storytellers. I thought, as I listened to eight high-flying lemales tell their audience at a seminar how they had managed to survive in their careers for so long. Refreshingly, they revealed that they had often been guided by instinct when making important decisions, fol-lowing the urgent promptings of their hearts as much as the cool reasoning of their heads.

Sometimes this meant they arrived in the same place as their more overtly ambitious male colleagues, despite the circuitous journey. Sometimes this meant they had willingly sacrificed the top jobs or made a virtue out of a redundancy in order to have a more complete and satisfying life.

But most striking was the way in which the women portrayed themselves as the fall-gal in their own stories - the jolly matron. Queen Bee of the music press surrounded by her cadaverous boy journalists; the flamboyant sex goddess. buffeted here and there by life's vicissitudes but by God (this said through gritted teeth - an Oscar-winning perfor-

She won't blow her own trumpet mance) she's still standing. Perhaps it was a distancing device, a way to pretend to themselves that they were not really, talking about themselves. We all know

what bad form it is for women to blow

their own trumpets -- and nowhere more

so than in Britain. Their professional stories were studded with details of personal loss and feelings of insecurity: the miscarriages and times of despair, waking up in the morning believing you will never be able to pick yourself up again. The intimacy of such private feelings was all the more poignant for it being shared by such public women. They seemed to see it as part of the deal to hold a mirror to the mperfections of what might appear on the outside to be their inexorable rise, to a room full of younger and less experienced women.

And there was a complete lack of pomposity. Almost without exception,

fer to some aspect of high-powered exec-utive life that they had rejected in favour of the bigger picture - the directorial suite, the chaffeurdriven limo - and then look incredibly embarrassed that they had been crass

enough to mention

could not help think-

ing that if it had been

furbelows.

a panel of men, not only would there have been no trace of hashfulness but we would have been left in no doubt whatsoever about the magnitude of the sacrifice. You can he sure we would have been treated, with a trainspotter's attention to detail, for instance,

LIFE AND SOUL



and make-up of the was, as it happens, a BMW Series 7, 36 fuel-injection, limited edition convertible with state-of-theart seat warmers." Trollope offered the following advice: "Above all things, never think that you're not good enough yourself. A

man should never think that. My belief is that in life, people will take you very much at your own reckoning." But at what point, I wonder, do boisterous boys and girlsterous girls turn into self-important men and selfand has looked after a staggering 54 children in her long career, believes that girls are more confident than boys. So what happens to them as they grow up. I asked her. How does their bravado get beaten out of them? "Life." she said

grimly. "It's a man's world, isn't it?"
But if it is a man's world, why is it that so many men feel uneasy in it? Some of the most swaggering, posturing, strut-ting men are, one suspects, profoundly un-selfconfident behind the bluster. Insecurity in a powerful man is an uneasy and sometimes dangerous combination, often translating into tyrannical behaviour. And while it may serve women's professional interests to talk themselves up, self-absorption is unattractive and boring whatever the sex; women who play the man's game are even worse, in my mind, than the men they imitate. One friend told me of a thrusting neighbour

talking about her nanny and her cleaner. There is no excuse for our generation of mothers, one might think, to bring up our sons to be anything other than perfectly well-balanced model New Men. But I wonder whether our child-centred culture might be in danger of creating -

who refers to "my staff" when she is

irony of ironies — more monstrously egonistical men than all the previous generations put together. No one who has read Kate Saunders's searing account of her young son's despotic hold on her household can doubt that even the most feisty feminists may find them-selves defenceless against all that nascent

Our own sons often seem to rule our roost. Car journeys sound like junior Question Time, as each of them tries to drown out a perceived opponent. "Absolute silence," the older one thunders,

"listen to me, everybody."
"Oh shhhhuddup, you... nostril." his younger brother retaliates. "I'm the one who's talking." It's a good thing we don't have a daughter - she would not get a word in edgeways. So much for equality.

Meet my friend, the mother-in-law

Take a fat harridan with a shrill voice, a silly hat with cherries. and 1950s National Health spees with go-fast wings like Mrs Merion's, and you have every tired stand-up comedian's version of The Mother-in-Law. She must be the oldest cliche in the book. While the trio of words mother-in-law - can, surely, no longer raise even the most downtrodden smile, it does still manage to prompt in most of us a negative image. This is because she has been the butt of jokes, if very lame ones, for so long that she has become part of our collective psyche.

But does the bossy, possessive, interfering witch of popular lore actually exist?
"I don't think the caricature is true any longer, not since

the early Eighties," says Julia Cole, a counsellor and therapist for Relate and author of Crunch Points for Couples. "The jokes had their roots in something serious and profound which still exists: how we separate from the family we grew up in, move on, create one of our own and accept new loyalties. A man had to worry about an overbearing motherin-law, and a woman about a man who had trouble leaving his mother. I occasionally still get women saying their husbands complain that they don't iron their shirts as well as their mother used to. "But things have changed

since the 1950s and 1960s. The woman is no longer a chattel being passed from her family to her husband. In the past. parents gave her away like a gift and so still believed they had some influence on how that gift was treated. Now a woman is more likely to have a career and an equal partnership. She has greater confi-dence and self-esteem, so is less likely to be cowed by her mother-in-law. Also, the increase in co-habitees - by 2000, 50 per cent of couples won't be married - means that the in-law role is more

Felicity Binyon, 58, whose eldest daughter. Miranda, married Harry Cory-Wright, a photographer, in 1995, has an enviable relationship with her son-in-law. "I've never felt like a music-hall mother-in-

With some exceptions, the old stereotype is being consigned to the dustbin, says Candida Crewe

become more obvious that we

are two generations. As a

grandmother as well as moth-

er-in-law you have to curb all

controlling instincts and real-

ise that if you're needed you

will be there, but you don't

interiere. My first mother-in-

law, wonderful though she

was, used to send me little

notes about how to do things. I

wouldn't dream of doing that."

Felicity's tact. He thinks she is

the perfect mother-in-law and

Harry clearly appreciates

that their relation-

ship is excellent.

"Miranda and I

were quite grown-

up when we mar-

ried," he says. "We

were in our thirties,

not teenagers. Fe-

licity's not the clas-

sic disapproving

mother-in-law.

there's no hype about going to visit

granny, none of

that having to be

on one's best be-

mind, and never feel shy of

talking about anything with

her. Also, she's not living close

by, which is a shame but it does perhaps explain why

there's never been any prob-

lem with the potential in-law

The same could not be said

of Lily Trotter, 30, who lives in

Somerset in the same street as

her mother-in-law. Lily's hus-

band David is a builder and

they have a son, Tom. and she

has had her moments of

experiencing the traditional

mother-in-law from hell.

When I first met Joan," says

Lily, "she was warm, homely.

easy-going, but that was be-

fore I was David's girlfriend.

Then she was cold and un-

friendly, and talked to David

as if I wasn't there. She never

asked me a single question

and revealed a fearsome tem-

per. Once at lunch she cut me

factor of interfering."

law," she says. "With my generation, meeting the future mother-in-law was like meeting the matriarch. But the whole structure of the family has changed. Now the prospective son or daughter-inlaw isn't like a newcomer arriving into the family, someone who must be scrutinised and considered. All the old things of class and money no longer exist - not from my point of view, anyway. Also, my children's generation is much more liberated, they tend to think of us more as friends, I feel Harry [who is 33] treats me like an equal. Other than showing he loves your daughter, it's the

nicest compliment 'She used a son-in-law can Felicity, who has to send been married twice, has five me little Brown-nb gangpters and lives in notes about Oxford. She sees Harry and Mirhow to do anda about once a month, and relishthings' es her visits to the

house where they

live on the Norfolk coast. "Harry and I both think haviour. I love her youth o Norfolk is the best place ever and we share quite a lot of artistic atunement. I love his work and admire his sharing of looking after the baby. He's very tactful and conscious of how I might be feeling. If there's ever any tension between Miranda and I. he would think it was our business and allow us to deal with it in our own way. He's never interfered in my relationship

with her in any way."

The Cory-Wrights' son,
Josey, was born 15 months ago. Although Felicity feels there has been no separation from Harry since the baby was born, she does acknowledge that there has been a slight change in the relationship with him, and the roles have become more obvious.

"Whereas during the courtship and the wedding you're a friend," she says, "when the

clear the plates away. She's an old-fashioned woman and was not going to accept me as her son's live-in girlfriend. One time, she stormed into our house when David was out baby comes along you're needand ripped down the curtains, ed. Harry's and my shared concern for Miranda and afsaying they weren't good fection for Josey has deepened the bond between us, but it's

This sort of behaviour was normal until after Lily and David got married five years ago and Tom was born. Then things began slowly to change for the better and Joan became much more like the woman Lily had originally met.

"I realise now," Lily says, "that what I sometimes took to be real rudeness was another generation not wanting to intrude, its respect of boundaries. Joan's got a brusque manner but she's a good person underneath, funny and easy-going. Partly why we get on better now is because I've decided not to be intimidated. If she tries to stuff Tom with food, I tell her when he doesn't want it. If she asks how I know he's not hungry, I say because

he's my son. These days she hasn't time to be a busybody. I can even say it's nice having her so near. I enjoy visiting her, we have good bonding sessions and moans about David. I like the mix of generations, so long as she respects our privacy. She no longer storms in unannounced. I nat all su moment we got married.

"I think she believes her responsibility for David has deferred to his wife. It took some doing, but at last she's handed him over."

arry Cory-Wright and Lily Trotter are not freaks for liking their mothers-in-law. These days it is quite normal for people to regard them as confidantes and friends. The mother-inlaw of today is a woman who was young in the 1960s and 1970s and probably had her fair share of fun in her time. She is a less upright creature than her vaudeville counterpart, and determined not to repeat the pattern of mistakes made by her own intrusive mother-in-law.

The experiences of Felicity and Harry do prove that an



Harry Cory-Wright with son Josey and mother-in-law Felicity Binyon: "It's great because I can talk to her about anything

excellent in-law relationship is possible. So isn't it time the stereotypical mother-in-law was consigned to the familial skip? Surely, for the next have to hit upon a new butt for

Ruth Gledhill joins a small but determined group of worshippers in Norfolk

Warm welcome in a cold climate



warm and sunny, but inside my bones froze in the icy air that infiltrated every pore. The smell was of damp and stale seawater. I wondered if the sepulchral chill was a manifesta-

tion of the ghost of a pre-Reformation Prior said to haunt the church. The reality was more prosaic. The Rector has decided it would be "immoral" to burn up the amount of fuel that would be required to warm the tiny congregation in what is said to be the largest parish church in England. Wised-up members come to church

in thermal underwear and woolly stockings. Quartz ray heaters glowed like sunlamps above the choir stalls, where most of the congregation sat, next to the choir. The tops of their heads roasted but their bonom halves, protected by the pews, troze. Those of us who arrived too late to sit in the choir simply froze all over.

While we ran through an enlivened ASB, the Rector, Canon Michael Woods, who has a team of five paid and unpaid staff running six churches in and around Great Yarmouth, was censing the altar across the river at St Mary's Later that night, at another of his churches. hands would be raised, guitars played and Graham Kendrick worship songs sung. The churches in the parish range from the tambourine to the thurible," the rector explained. Every member of the team can

operate throughout that spectrum. Our service was taken by his curate, the Rev Gill Jessop, a bounc-



Altar girls at St Nicholas Church

ing, beaming late ordinand and clearly at the evangelical end of that spectrum. She had just returned from Spring Harvest, an evangelical Christian festival at a Butlins holiday camp. There was something special about being with 9,000 other Christians," she said, addressing her congregation of 50 as though we were thousands. The difficulty came on her return. The doubts set in. "Did I really meet Jesus or was it my

She related this to the gospel reading of the day, referring to Christ's post-Resurrection appearances to the disciples. There is no point in hiding your light under a bushel, or covering it with a bucket. depending on which version you are reading," she said. "You must go out

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into the world and let people see the light by living the life of the Lord. Have no doubt that it is real."

St Nicholas was founded in 1101 by Herbert de Losinga, first Bishop of Norwich, and was repeatedly enlarged and extended until. by the middle of the 13th century, the aisles were widened to 39ft, and remain to this day the widest side aisles of any Christian church in the world. Sadly, the population of 10,000 the church was intended to serve was reduced to 3,000 by the Black Death. After the Reformation, the refectory became a stable. The church under Cromwell was divided into three, for the Puritans and Independents, with the Church of England in the nave. Restored magnificently by the Victorians, it was guited by bombs in 1942.

In 1961 the present rector, Canon Woods, grandson of the great Norfolk boat builder Walter Woods, served as the crucifer who led the procession into the church for its consecration after restoration. Imagine his dismay five years ago when he returned as rector to find it surrounded by water. Rumour has it that a cement mixer had fallen into a drain and was concreted over, raising the high water table even higher. Hence the smell of damp, competing with that of polish applied by the army of volunteers. Canon Woods will lead the

congregation tomorrow in Anzac day celebrations, with didgeridoo and Australian dance, as the replica of Captain Cook's HMS Endeavour nests in the harbour. The rector has fought a valiant battle to resurrect the church, and there is no doubt that the tide of despond is receding. Line dancing with Rowena's Dance Ranch has been introduced, and the nave will host soon a dog show to find the dog with the waggiest tail, and the one most like its owner.

Less valiant souls would despair to be given the cure of St Nicholas, beached on the edge of England like some battle-scarred ship of the past. Not so Canon Woods. A cleric who describes with glee his regular Sun-day forays onto the Norfolk Broads in his grandfather's oak and mahogany boat to take on "the Tupperware Navy that herds up and down in its plastic boats" is just the man to salvage this church for the present. while not destroying its past.

• The Priory and Parish Church of St Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR304EE. Tel: 01493 850666

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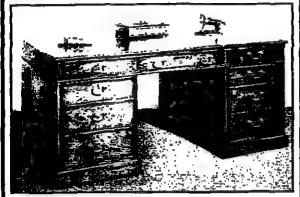
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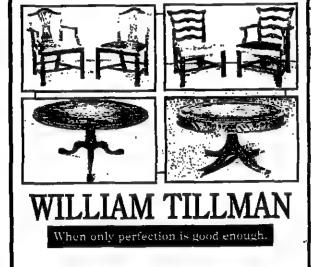
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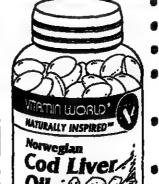
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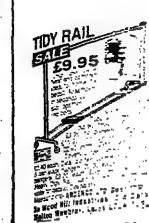
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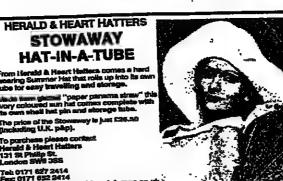


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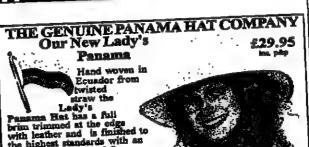


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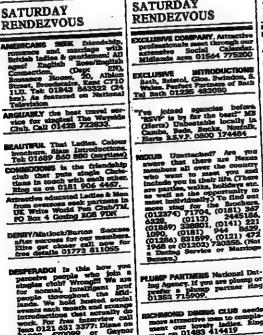
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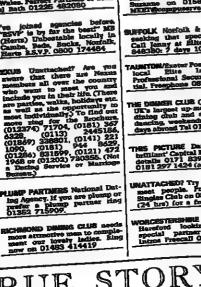
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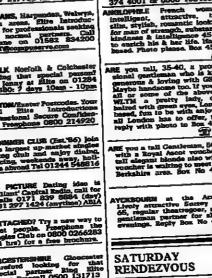
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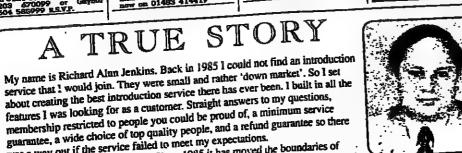
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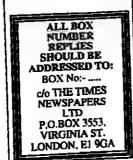


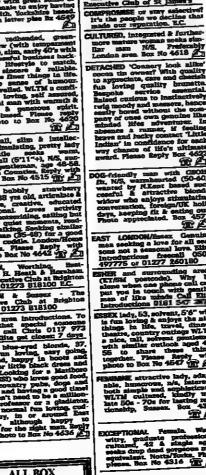
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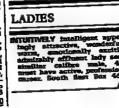
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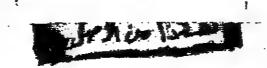
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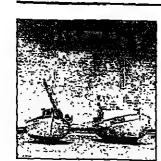
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The Paris that is handy for the Andes

and the men in the high black boots click their heels. From far down a side street, brassy march music reaches towards the waiting crowd. An officer twirling a mace leads his military band across the square. The euphoniums blast out Colonel Bogey. They're changing the guard at the Moneda Palace in Santiago.

The palace - pillared, presidential, 19th century - is a testament to Chile's recent history. Its long front wall is scarred by parched-up pockmarks inflicted by shells and bombs when General Pinochet staged his military coup in 1973. President Salvador Allende made his last stand inside - wearing a tin helmet and defending himself with a machine gun presented by Fidel Castro. "Long live Chile!" he cried in his last radio broadcast. "Long live the people! Long live the workers!"

But Pinochet took over and for 16 years Chile was effectively wiped off the world tourism map. "Do you remember the days when it wasn't politically correct to buy Chilean onions?" asks a bearded Briton as bayonets are fixed and swords sheathed.

大三 州市

eng what

Now, since the 1989 democratic elections, Chile is welcoming western tourists again and onions are back on the menu. The old advice "Don": get caught in cross-fire" no longer applies. The instant image is ponchos and pan pipes — and there are plenty of those in the rural areas of this trailing ribbon of a country that the Andes have almost edged into the ocean.

But there's another Chile. And Santiago is a good place to sample it. Leave Colonel Bogey and stroll across to the square in front of the cathedral. In late afternoon, between siesta and fiesta, old men in homburgs are feeding pigeons and street photographers with cameras as big as

ovens are touting for custom. In the warm autumn sunlight, poplar trees shed yellow leaves and pavement artists are tactfully slimming down chubby children. A woman in a white coat checks business-

men's blood pressure. There's a lot of strolling and sitting on benches and playing chess and listening to a man with a beard full enough to grow mushrooms. He is shouting Protestant sermons in front of the Catholic cathedral, where the confession boxes have neat lace curtains and Moses' finger points to the Seventh Commandment, the one about adultery.

Take the passageway a few yards along and cross cobbled courtyards full of melon trees and wooden statues of Christ as a Spanish fisherman, in the relics corner is a dimly-lit glass case packed with saints' leg bones. St Clement's tibia. St Vincent's fibula. St



FACTFILE

British Airways (0345 22211) flies direct from London to Santiago three times a week. Prices start from £1,091 return. Flights booked through Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) start at £655 with BA.

🗃 JLA offers a Santiago kage, with six nights at the Hyatt Regency and return flights with BA from 1994 per person sharing a twin room. It includes breakfasts and transfers, a city tour and tours of Valparaiso and Viña

The best lime to this is September to May, with December to March the warmest months. June to August are the best months for seeing wildlife.

■ UK passport holders do vaccinations are required but it is recommended that roid, polio, tetanus ant hepatitis A be obtained if travelling in rural areas.

Reading. The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) Handbook, Charlie Nurse (Footorint, £10.99), Travels in a Thin Country, Sara Wheeler (Abacus, E7.99). The House of Spirits, Isabel Allende (Black Swan, E6.99).

Jucundi's something - can't tell what, but he must have limped badly. There are plenty of saints' legs because there are plenty of saints - St Edith. St Nelson, St Aida, even St Sandra, bless her.

ith its parks and gardens, its wide boulevards, its street cales and its central river, Santiago could just about pass as Paris - which is exactly what the people who built it last century wanted. They commissioned Eiffel, of Tower fame, to design grand public buildings and a railway station now used - like the Musee d'Orsay - as an exhibition centre. They stuffed the ships from France with crystal chande-liers and gold leaf. They wanted to recreate a little bit of Europe in the Andes.

As Hugo, our guide, says:
"Here in Chile, we are very far
from the rest of the world." From the 16th century, the Spanish conquerors suppressed the native Indian culture and developed a cosmopolitan outlook. Hugo's grandparents were Spanish. Italian, French and German but he says Chileans are called the British of South America. Reserved, polite, sober. Fiestas can be a touch formal. For British, now read Amer-

ican. Santiago happily embraces the Cola-isation of the globe. The young wear base-ball caps, back to front, and blow bubblegum. The shopping malls are stacked with Barbies and "mini-blenders just like mum's". And, despite one of the world's most efficient Metro systems, there are cars everywhere. High mountains surround the city and glow a stunning pink at sunset. But they trap pollution. A plan to encourage throughwinds by chopping off their top 1,000 feet was abandoned. Car use is now rota-rationed. "There is so much rush," says Hugo. "There are as many taxis here as in New York."

ven so, first-time visitors are more likely to be struck by the city's clean, green elegance. It has style and charm and, in El Naturista, one of the best vegetarian restaurants in a country where non-meateaters are indulged as halfwirs. Meat and fish are piled high at every meal.

You can watch the fish being landed at Valparaiso, Chile's second city - 80 miles north of Santiago past 47- Coca-Cola hoardings and countless roadside shrines to accident victims. Pelicans swoop, their beaks snapping like tailors shears, as the fishermen land swordfish and sea bass from bright yellow boats for gutting on the shore.

Valparaiso is the Marseilles of Chile, bohemian and rather scruffy in the way ports can be - too busy to bother with the peeling paintwork. Steep cobbled streets, twisting flights of steps and funicular railways surround a central square lined with palm trees and magnolias.

The city was a great British centre last century. Hence the Queen Victoria Hotel, the Avenue Grand Bretagne and the graves on the highest hill in the cemetery for "Los Dissidentes". Study the memorial to the wondrously named Lushington Goodwin and have a drink in one of the British bars where local groups imitate the Beatles.

Around the bay is Vina del Mar, more Monaco than Marseilles. It's an ever-expanding beach resort, popular with Santiago weekenders and full of luxury apartment blocks. It has horse-drawn broughams. a restaurant that plays Don't Cry for Me Argentina and a football team called Everton (sharing a ground with Santiago Wanderers).

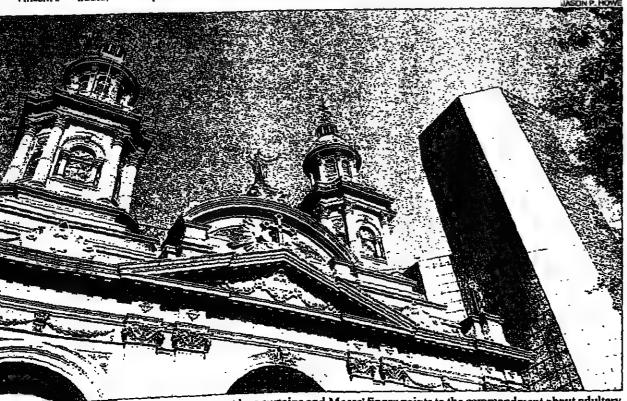
Couples canoodle on the beach. The Pacific waves spectacularly. Gulls



dive-bomb fish. And a couple of hundred miles beyond the glistening horizon is the island where the original Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked. And not a poncho or a pan pipe in

> STEPHEN **McClarence**

• The author was a guest of Journey Latin America and



In the cathedral the confession boxes have neat lace curtains and Moses' finger points to the commandment about adultery

A TRAVELPLANNERS PROMOTION Fall Foliage Mountain Majesty

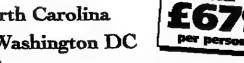


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Slovenia and Croatia: The countries of the former Yugoslavia are battling to regain their tourist industry

Ruritania lives again



clear Adriatic by a tiny medieval town on a headbut beautiful coast, the towers of Trieste to one side, the Croatian hills to the other. Two hours' driving later and we were in Ljubljana, a central European capital, full of music, Baroque and street cafés below an ancient castle. We are suckling pig and frittered frogs in a pretty courtyard, where students recited poetry and performed folk dancing,

Another hour's drive and we were in a farm guesthouse below the Alps near the Austrian border. The farmer's wife laughed a lot, greeted us with home-made plum brandy and gave us a room with a view of wild peaks and serene Lake Bled. We awoke next day to the sound of cowbells.

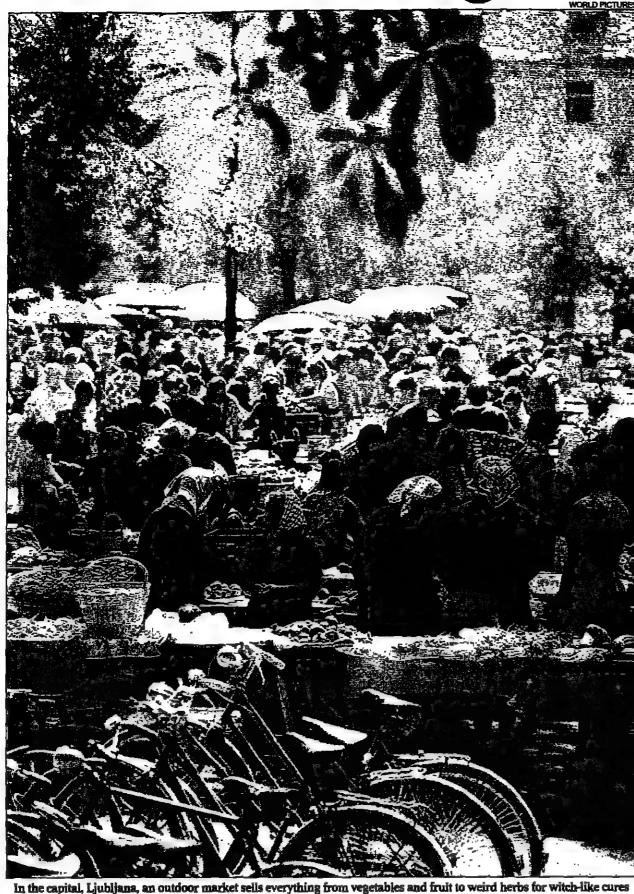
Small but diverse, Slovenia is only two hours by car from Salzburg or Venice. This former Marxist Ruritania of two million people, having won its ten-day "war of liberation" in 1991 against Belgrade's Serbled army, is today independent for the first time in 800 years of alien rule, mainly Hapsburg, then Titoist. It is the most advanced of all former communist nations, and in the front rank to join the EU.

It is in a charmed phase of transition, not yet too tartedup by capitalist gloss, but showing few outward signs of its socialist past, save for some dreary Soviet-style buildings and the duliness of some hotels still "publicly owned". Other places to stay, however, are delightful, notably the farm houses

Slovenes are bursting with culture; book-buying is at Europe's highest level and "everyone here writes poetry, it's our national disease", i was tion. Slovenes always clung to their own language and culture to preserve their national identity; and their national

hero is a poet, Franz Preseren. The coast has an ituitan legacy. Here Venice in its prime built ramparted seaports: Piran, the prettiest, is ike a less-spoilt St Tropez — a tiny, red-roofed city secluded on a cape, with intimate alleys, a marble-paved piazza, coloured Venetian houses, dinghies in the harbour, like the setting for an operetta. At the seafront restaurants, popular with the Liubliana smart set, we enjoyed the local fish and wines (dry white Malvazija, purplish Teran).

Nearby is the large, modern resort of Portoroz, whose thermal centre offers mud cures. From here it is a short drive into Croatia - much poorer and still war-shocked - past the Customs posts and armed guards of the new frontier that did not exist until 1991. Slovene



In the capital, Ljubljana, an outdoor market sells everything from vegetables and fruit to weird herbs for witch-like cures

scorn for the rest of former Yugoslavia can be smug: "We have nothing to do with that Balken lot down south," is a remark I heard often.

Across most of the country the Austrian legacy is visible in the Baroque towns, oniondomed churches and spa resorts. There are Slovene curiosities, too - ornately painted beehives and haystacks with wooden roofs amid lush, pastoral scenery.

At Lipica stud farm you can watch a display of the handsome, white Lippizaner horses once bred for the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. At Kobarid is a striking new museum of the 1917 mountain battle where Hemingway drove an ambulance before saying farewell to arms. In a gigantic cave near Postoina. we found a poetry festival in full swing.

At Bled, the beauty of the little lake is not much spoilt by the big ugly hotels at one end.

You can walk around it in 70 minutes: or row out to the tovlike white church on a tiny island; or visit the imposing hilltop castle, where we came across a Bach cello concert.

goslav royals, and then Tito, all adored Bled. The Cafe Belvedere, above the lake, was built by King Alexander then used as a tearoom by Tito, who has left enormous frescoes of sturdy workers and farm girls creating a socialist Utopia. Here, a mini-skirted waitress served us caviar sandwiches. At Tito's nearby Villa Bled, now a luxury hotel, you can sleep in his suite. The furnish-

The Hapsburg and Yu-

ings are drab and heavy. I preferred the elegant Lakeside Hotel at Toplice, where Agatha Christie once staved. Liubliana has few Tito relics but some splendid ancient buildings in the Old Town by the river below the castle,

Winenberg Day 4 Visit Torgau Day 5 Cruse to

Meissen and Dresden

Day 6 Cruise through the Elbandstein

and moor overnight.

Here are narrow streets with Bohemian bars and bistros: and the curious, ornate Triple Bridge, designed in the 1920s by the Slovene architect Jože Plečnik, in an outdoor market. women were selling weird herbs for witch-like cures alongside vegetables.

Much of Ljubljana is still shabby, yet full of a lively. quirky originality, youthful and cosmopolitan. We found The Dubliners folk group playing their sixth visit to eager audiences. Indeed, Slovenes have much in common with the Irish - songful. boozy and gregarious; witty talkers with a strain of melancholy: passionate if touchy patriots, after a long occupation by a larger neighbour.

At village inns or city taverns, the cooking is appetising, if rough-and-ready, with thick soups, pork, sausages, mushrooms, and strudels. Many dishes are Austrian in style.

After its 1991 "war". Slovenia briefly lost its tourist trade, but now the Austrians. Germans and italians have returned in hordes. Many Britons still seem wary of visiting the former Yugoslavian countries; school exchanges with Slovenia have been slow to resume, and few car insurance firms will provide cover tyou do best to buy this at the

Happily, there are signs of a change for 1997. Some of the bigger tour operators, such as Thomson, are back in business here, while the smaller Slovenia Pursuits is developing its farm holidays. Now you can ski in the Alps,

take a spa cure or an Adriatic beach holiday, visit churches with medieval frescoes, dine on venison in a castle courtyard or attend any of the many music festivals.

Something for everyone.

JOHN ARDAGH

Pour another glass of mistletoe liqueur

No the east of Trieste, the Istrian peninsula juts into the northeastern Adriatic. Over the centuries various empires - Roman. Byzantine, Venetian, Austro-Hungarian — have swept across it, establishing ports and resorts. Since 1990 Istria has been part of Croatia and before that, of course, Yugoslavia. Although the recent bloodshed happened else-where, the foreign tourists who once flocked there now

hardly come at all. Their absence and an unusually wet summer last year meant that when I arrived in mid-September in Porec, a town on the western shore, my fellow visitors were mainly day-trippers from other parts of Croatia. The lack of international interest emphasised the town's quiet charm. It looked busy enough: the cafés and icecream parlours were all full, the most expensive shops were selling filigree jewellery and a woman was doing a brisk trade in lavender.

In the early morning a greenish light hung over the marina, where yachts bobbed in the clear water. A woody headland extends beyond the town itself, popular with campers and nudists; I was told that, through the midst of the troubles, a family of British nudists spent two Garden of Eden-style years on the headland. A few Victorian hotels line the front but most date from the tourist boom of the 1970s. One has been requisitioned as a hostel for refugees from Vukovar, who apparently loathe the sea and cannot wait to go home.

Behind the refugees' hotel are the remains of a temple built by the Romans, whose original town plan survives: the main street is still the Decumanus and the town square, Marafor Trg, is the forum. The Romans called the place Parentium. There were two temples, one dedicated to Neptune, the other to Mars.

oth were eclipsed in Byzantine times by the basilica, endowed by a wealthy citizen called Euphrasius in honour of St Maurice. Much of the current basilica dates from the 6th century, although the altar incorporates carvings taken from the Neptune temple, and floor mossics.

The beli-tower was added by the Venetians, who came originally for the materials (wood, stone and marble) to build their own city, then stayed, planting olive groves and vineyards in the region. Parenzo, their name for the town, is still used. Italian is widely spoken all along the western coast: most of the towns are signposted with both Croat and Italian names. Venice was never more than a day's voyage away — nowadays just a few hours by hydrofoil — and the Guild of Venetian Pilots was based in Porec, the pedotti meeting the great galleasses out in the Adriatic and guiding them skilfully over to the lagoon. Several palazzos grace the Decumanus, as well as humbler 15th-century dwellings.

The day we crossed the peninsula was blustery, to say the least. Our first stop, just a few miles inland from Porec,



FACT FILE

■ Thorason (0990 502 560) offers seven-night packages to Porec from £265 half-board, depending on the time of year.

Reading: Black Lamb and Grey Falcon. by Rebecca West (Canongan Books, £9.99). Companior Guide to Yugoslavia, (Boydell & Brewer, £16.95).

was the Baredine cavern with an unpromising entrance slippery iron steps down a hole in a field of soggy pumpkins. But what we found down there was Wonderland: five glittering chambers of stalactites and stalagmites. hanging curtains that chimed when tapped and gigantic translucent crystals. One sta-lagmite looked exactly like the Tower of Pisa, another like the /Irgin Mary. We were shown an albino

salamander from a dark river far beneath the cave, now living on invisible insects alone in a shallow pool. Without eyes, it was a solemn, elegant creature, looking as if it was sculpted from a candle. As we went further inland, the landscape took on a rugged Celtic character: valleys.

drizzle, shades of green, rocky outcrops, mossy lanes, gnarled trees, lichen, lvy and dry-stone walls and small circular barns called kazuns, constructed in the same way as the walls, the stones so precisely piled that their interi-

ors are tight against the rain. The hill village of Hum, on the western rim of Mount Ucka, claims to be the smallest town in the world. In the Middle Ages it was a place of sanctuary for the local population. Whenever it was stormed or destroyed. Hum was rebuilt from the rubble, and only the church has changed its original outlines. Now most of Hum's inhabitants are artists and craftsmen; they must lead

Our guide pointed out inscriptions and graffiti in

invented by two missionary saints, Cyril and Methodius, in the 9th century. Eventually the Glagolitic alphabet was modified into the much more widespread Cyrillic script, but the original form continued to be used in central Istria for nearly a thousand years.

We had a splendid lunch: home-made bread, prsut (prosciutto), ewe's milk cheese, olives, a bean soup called bobici, coarse-textured sausages and sauerkraut, and a young red wine. With our coffee we were offered a local spirit called biska, made from mistletoe, but (convinced that mistletoe is poisonous) we declined.

I was given a cassette of folk songs and dance tunes. Istria has a startling musical tradi-tion, which is based on a scale found nowhere else in the world, performed on strange instruments such as rozenicas. primitive oboes always played in pairs, one large and one small. There is also the surla (two pipes played with a single mouthpiece, allowing two quite different sounds to be produced at once) and a local bagpipe called the diple. If the instruments sound farring to our ears, the "harmony" singing is so discordant it sounds like a hoax. But perhaps after a few drams of biska . . .

s we left Hum, the weather grew worse.
We pressed on through driving rain to the eastern shore - hardly the best conditions to arrive in Opatija, the belle epoque resort on the Guif of Kvarner, the Adriatic Riviera. As Porec is influenced by Rome and Venice, so Opatija looks decidedly Central European with its ornate stucco villas, botanical gardens and cafés serving Viennese

Its gradual development began in the 1840s, when the Villa Angiolina was built by an Austrian timber merchant. By the beginning of this century Opatija was fashionable enough to attract royal visi-tors. Isadora Duncan stayed at the Grand Hotel which was

then the most opulent in town. The rain lashed down all day and all night; everyone assured me it was most untypical. I sat on various sheltered terraces, writing postcards urging friends to visit Istria he crowds return, if not for the coastal resorts then for the warm eccentricity of the heartland. This summer the weather is bound to improve.

JOE ROBERTS • The author was a guest of

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the name of Conservation

presentably recommend

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Opatija was once a favourite resort for royal visitors

For those contem-Hplanng a tour of Middle Europe the usual option is a land based coach tour offering evernight stops and long journeys. If the thought of a different hotel every night and all that re-packing is unattractive, then you might like to consider our voyage along the Elbe and

Viliava Rivers. During the course of our seven night river journey we will sail from the royal city of Potsdam on the outskirts of Berlin through the enchanung countryside of Saxony and Bohemia to Prague. Our vessel the MS Konigstem is the only vessel currently able to navigate this route which allows us to sail into the heart of Prague.

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SLOVENIA FACT FILE

week's B&B for £356 per person, based on four sharing, including flights. Transfers to and from the airport costs £24 each. Other tout operators include Thomson (0990 502560). Crystal (0181-399 5144), Inghams (0181-780 4400) and Ramblers' Holidays (01707 331133). Adria Airways (0171-437 0143) flies daily from Heathrow to Ljubljana from £233 return. There will also be a Tuesday flight from Manchester from June 17 at £298.

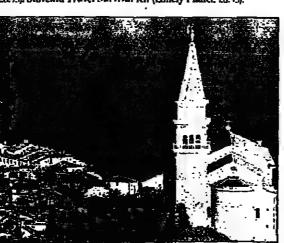
Recommended hotels in Slovenia include: Austrotel. Ljubljana (00 386 61 132 61 33), B&B £100 a double room. Hotel Tartini. Piran (00 386 66 74 62 22), B&B double, £50. Grand Hotel Topljee, Břed (00 386 64 74 18 41). B&B double, £90.

■ The exchange rate is at present £1 > 240 tolars.

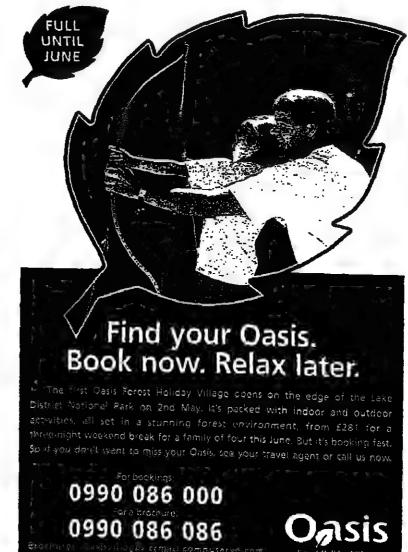
E Driving: if taking your car into Slovenia, buy third-party insurance at the horder, roughly £30 a week. Car hire with Hertz (0990 996699) from Ljubijana airport costs £67 for three days over a weekend, £133 for a week, to include unlimited mileage, collision damage waiver, theft protection and taxes.

■ For further information, call the Slovene Tourist Board on

Reading: Independent Slovenia. by Evan Kraft (Macmillan, £13.50). Slovenia, by Stane Stanic (Flint Rivers Press, £25). Contemporary Slovenian Poetry, by Jo Shapcott (Bloodaxe. £8.95). Slovenia Travel Survival Kit (Lonely Planet. £8.95).



St George's church at Piran, a less-spoilt St Tropez





Spring breaks: The literary landscape of Marcel Proust; plus the artistic life and soul of the Spanish border

A novel type of pilgrim

of a cult following as Mar-cel Proust (1871-1922). Reading the seven volumes of Proust's magnum opus, Remembrance of Things Past, is frequently described as an eye-opening, even life-changing experience. For any-one who has fallen seriously under Proust's spell, there may be no finer way to spend a holiday than to undertake a Proustian pilgrimage. visiting a number of sites in northern France connected with the great moustachioed writer.

What would such a pilgrimage involve? First and foremost, a visit to Illiers-Combray, a sleepy town 25 kilometres southwest of the cathedral town of Chartres. For centuries, the place was simply known as Illiers, but in 1971, it decided to rename itself to signal its connection to its most famous son, or rather visitor, for it was here that Marcel Proust spent his summer holidays in his great aunt's house and here that he drew inspiration for the fictional town of Combray, lovingly described in the first volume of his novel.

There is something eerie about driving into a place which has surrendered its claim to independent reality in favour of a role fashioned for it by a novelist who spent a few summers there as a boy in the late 19th century. But Illiers-Combray relishes the idea. Every bakery advertises 'la petite madeleine de Marcel Proust', and groups of pilgrims are to be seen ambling down the town's quaint cobbled streets, carrying bags of madeleines and heading for Proust's aunt's house, now converted into the Musée Marcel Proust.

It has all the kitsch touches usually found in writer's museums pens which the author supposedly wrote with, desks where he supposedly sat, beds he supposedly slept in. Characters in the novel are referred to as if they were real. rather than merely modelled on real people. Visitors are solemnly "the bed in which Aunt Seonie slept" and . "the kitchen where Françoise cooked her asparagus". Still, those who have been impressed by the opening pages of Proust's novel cannot not fail to be moved by the sight of the small garden in which the author's fictionalised mother once sat with Charles Swann before going up-stairs to give her son the legendary good night kiss.

In the countryside around Illiers-Combray, Marcel Proust trails have been set up so that tourists can follow on foot the very country walks the author takes his readers along on the page. You can watch the Loire flow languidly past, and recall its fictionalised version.



Proust's Vivonne river. Of course, there's nothing spectacular about this stretch of countryside or indeed about this little town. It's typical of many in the flat plain west of Paris. but the particular charm of a visit to Illiers-Combray lies in a chance to see with one's own eyes things one has already seen described by a

genius. Proust developed chronic asthma in adolescence and never returned to Illiers-Combray. He was more or less confined to Paris and to a second-floor apartment at 102 Boulevard Haussmann. Proust had a problem with other people's noises, which explains why he took the eccentric step of lining his bedroom with cork tiles. It was an excellent idea, for when one visits the room today it is a haven of peace in a noisy part of town. Proust's flat is



30). Proust suite: Fr6,900 (£770) low season, Fr8.700 (£970) high season. owned by a bank, which has taken the enlightened step of opening up his bedroom to literary tourists. Proust more or less lived in his

The author flew Brit Air (0181-

742-6600) from Gatwick to Le

Boulevard Haussmann, 75009 Paris.

28120 Illiers-Combray, Eure-et-Loir (16) 23 72 43 097.

Chambre Marcel Proust, Banque SNVB, 102

Musée Carnavajet, 23 Rue de Sevigne, 75003 Paris.

Open every day except Monday.

Hotel Ritz, IS Place Vendome, 75001 Paris (43 16 30

Visits daily, except Monday. Entrance Fr25 (£2.70).

the day (it was quieter that way). oday the room is light, airy and empty apart from a few chairs, for Proust's original furniture has all been moved to another of his bedrooms. Confusingly, there are two Proust bedrooms in Paris: one on the Boulevard Haussmann, the other, a recreation of this very same room, complete with original furniture, in the Musée Carnavalet. If only the two institutions could come to some agreement, the Proustian pilgrim would be saved a iourney, for Proust's furniture is

bedroom, with the curtains drawn,

working at night and sleeping in

Havre, return flights from £89.

Musée Marcel Proust, 4 Rue du Docteur Proust,

notably ugly (unsurprising when he once wrote to friends: "There is

nothing I care less about than

Those seeking something a little

more tastefully Proustian should

head for the Hotel Ritz in the Place

Vendome. Proust was a frequent

visitor to this gilded palace, which

snobbish side, as it was full of

duchesses and counts (later merci-

lessly mocked in his novel). He

particularly liked the food at the

Ritz, especially the roast chicken

and green beans. He would give

intimate dinner parties in a small

room on the first floor of the hotel

(the dining room was too crowded

Today, the room has been turned, perhaps inevitably, into the

"suite Marcel Proust". There's a

and too noisy).

tables, chairs and carpets").

gave him a chance to indui

■ Grand Hotel, Promenade Marcel Proust, Cabourg (02 31 91 01 79, fax 02 31 24 03 20). Proust suite:

Illiers-Combray, where Proust, left, spent summer holidays in his great aunt's house and drew inspiration for the fictional town of Combray portrayed in his novel

Frl,200 low season, Frl,300 high season. Hertz cars can be rented in eight Normandy towns. Reservations can be made in the UK by phoning 0990 906090. A week's car hire from Deauville in May costs from about £144.

Reading: Remembrance of Things Past, by Marcel Proust (Penguin, three volumes, £12, £12.50, £13). Companion Guide to Normandy, by Nesta Roberts (Boydell & Brewer, E14.95). Normandy and Brittany (Rough Guide, 8.99).

portrait of him on the wall, a madeleine comes with your breakfast tray, and, for the bookish, there is a copy of Remembrance of Things Past in a glass cabinet. To be truly Proustian, you might order a plate of roast chicken and green

notie. Fr120 (£13) for haricost verts. Then again, as Proust wisely noted: There are people who are only convinced that they have enjoyed themselves if they have first been led to spend a lot of money." In which case, the Ritz couldn't be more fun. Another luxurious location with

beans - delicious, but criminally priced - Fr280 (£31) for the volaille

a Proust connection is the Normandy seaside resort of Cabourg - in Proust's day, the playground of the rich and famous, but now somewhat run down, in a charming

Brightonish sort of way. There is a huge sandy beach, a long promenade and a succession of little restaurants tempting you with succulent moules-frites and crepes.

Dominating the town is an imposing stuccoed pile, the Grand Hotel, where Proust stayed during the summers he spent in Cabourg from 1907 to 1914. He went to Normandy hoping the sea air would do his asthma some good. It didn't, but Cabourg at least inspired him to create the fabulous fictional resort of Balbec in volume two of his long novel.

Naturally the Grand Hotel has a "Proust suite" - an ordinary room but 50 per cent more expensive than any other, thanks to the literary heritage. It's not quite the Ritz, but it's luxurious enough, with a stunning view across the bay and a

THE FINE ART SOCIETY/BRIDGENIA

large sunken bath. Hints of Proust are everywhere in Cabourg: there's a promenade Marcel Proust, the Grand Hotel has a restaurant called Le Balbec, the bar in the casino is called Du côté de chez Swann and there's even a café called the Albertine.

roustians would be well advised to take a car beyond Cabourg into the surrounding Normandy countryside, dotted — as in Dives. Glanville. Bricqueville and Englesqueville - with quaint medieval churches. Proust had a passion for these, and would visit them at night, asking his chauffeur to light up the archways and the gargoyles with the car headlamps.

Despite his many ailments and reclusive tendencies, there was nothing marcel Proust loved to do more than go on holiday. He provides us with the perfect excuse to head off on one - though we should perhaps heed his warning: "The finest holidays are those we picture to ourselves in our minds before we have left home."

ALAIN DE BOTTON

FACT FILE

Corm

Figuera

SPAIN

Gerong i e

Air France (0181-742 6600) has

daily flights from Heathrow to

B Budget (0541 565656) has car

hire from Toulouse from £123 for

Inntravel (01653 628811) offers a

three-night fly-drive to Collioure.

dinner, bed and breakfast at Les Templiers. Air France flights and

three days' car hire. Extra nights, with car hire, from £57.

Travelscene (0181-427 4445) has

seven-night fly-drive holidays to Foulouse from E563, including car

via Toulouse, Irom £314. The

price includes three nights'

hire. flights and hotels.

Reading: Languedoc

Toulouse from £206.

10 miles

● The author was assisted by the French Tourist Office. He is the author of How Proust Can Change Your Life, published by Picador, £12.99

FROANCE

Knowing art from anchovies

houses under orange-brown

tiles crowd around the water's edge. St Vincent's church.

grafted on to the lighthouse in

the 17th century, guards the north wall of the harbour and

the Château Royal, founded by

the Templars in the 12th

century, dominates the bay.

Te headed for Catalan country in search of spring. Picking up a car from Toulouse airport, we drove on to where the Pyrenees tumble into the Mediterranean. Known to sailors as the armpit of the Med. the locals understandably prefer the name of Côte Vermouille. presumably referring to the reddish brown earth.

Once a small fishing port, Collioure has drawn artists to its narrow streets since the days of Matisse and Derain. Picasso passed through. Dufy doodled and even Charles Rennie Mackintosh stayed long enough to take off his

Today, the art is reassuring rather than radical, and fishing has to compete with fashion. But, despite an appetite for the tourist franc. Collioure has retained a great deal of its inherent beauty. Salmon-pink

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GOLFING BREAKS

Climbing steeply back from the harbour, the houses begin to thin out among delicately terraced fields of vines until the hills eventually become too steep to cultivate and serve simply as a spectacular backdrop to the town. Our hotel, Les Templiers. has long been a focus for the

town's artistic life. René Pous, the founder, had clearly had a soft spot for Mansse and his cohorts and could always be persuaded to part with a plate of anchovies and a bottle of red wine in exchange for a painting. As a result, the walls are filled with what one would term "works of arr". Good business if you are feeding a hungry Matisse but in some

cases Rene got a bad deal. Collioure is only a few miles from the Spanish border. Unlike the British, who have strong ideas about national boundaries, the Catalans see them merely as lines on a map - usually someone else's.

We crossed the border into Spain and headed for Gerona. This city, like most of Catalonia, has often been fought over and occupied and its architecture is horrowed from dozens of different styles, Where else, apart from Israel, would you find Arab baths in

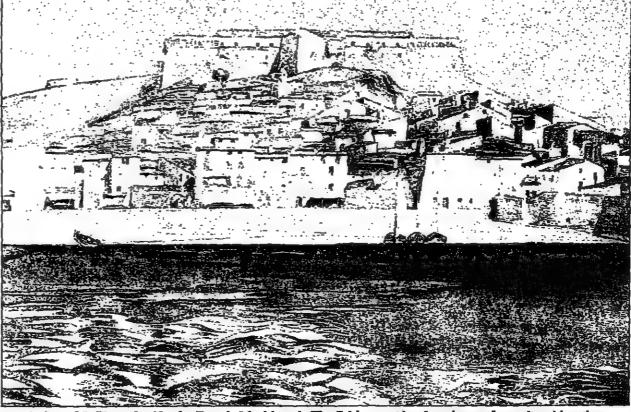
the Jewish quarter? From the outside Gerona's cathedral is not particularly impressive, but don't be put off. It was founded in the 11th century, though a Roman temple and a mosque previously occupied the site, and much of the present building dates from the 15th century. Inside, the impression is of size - its Gothic nave is the widest of its kind in the world, and you cannot help wondering how the roof stays up.

The greatest treasures, however, are to be found in the museum and cloisters. Religious or not, there is something awe-inspiring about the Beatus, an account of the Apocalypse written more than (,000) years ago by Emeterius. and the Romanesque Tapestry of the Creation, woven in the 11th and 12th centuries and still largely intact.

in a long room above the cloisters is a collection of bishops' vestments daring back to the 13th century. The vestments are displayed on dummies inside glass cabinets. Each one reflects off the windows of surrounding cabinets, thus multiplying the number of "bishops". I felt as if I had stumbled into an episcopal cocktail party.

the way back from Gerona, we called into the Dali museum in Figueres, the artist's final joke on the world. Even Catalans admit there is no other reason for visiting the town and 1 assume that the enormous golden-yellow eggs on the roof reflect the artist's status in the

nown as the labled goose. Back in France, we drove inland along the River Tech, one of several Catalan rivers that flow from the Pyrenees on to the Roussillon plain. We touched Cerer, famed for its cherry harvest but somewhat seedy, and Amélie-les-Bains, a spa town that one guidebook refers to as a year-round old people's home. After a couple of hours we came to Prats-de-Mollo, a great base for a



A view of Collioure by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The fishing port has long been a favourite with artists

walking holiday that gained its 15 minutes of fame when inhabitants murdered Louis XIV's taxmen. A roadside sign at the Hotel des Touristes proclaimed: "We attempt to correctly speak English", and the maitresse d', a formidable Catalan lady, did

She congratulated us on driving so far up the valley and berated the folk of Perpignan for never getting past Amelie. She then explained how we might take the track up through the pass and on towards Mont Canigou, a mountain that occupies a spe-

indeed engage us in

conversation.

cial place in the Catalan soul. The River Aude also spills out of the Pyrenees and the valley provides a spectacular drive. În the Défilé de Pierre-Lys, a gorge south of Quillan, the road passes under huge

engineered overhangs of rock like half-tunnels.

The fast-flowing Aude provides Ouillan with its main attraction, but after the gorge we did manage to squeeze in a sustaining bowl of cassouler and a pitcher of red, just to calm the nerves

On Sunday, the day we left, Collioure held a market. We could not resist buying some enormous olives, plus a few bottles of local wine and an extremely large jar of the anchovies the town specialises in. The olives lasted us a couple of days, the wine lingered for a couple of weeks. And the anchovies? Well. if anyone has a recipe, other than pizza or baked peppers.

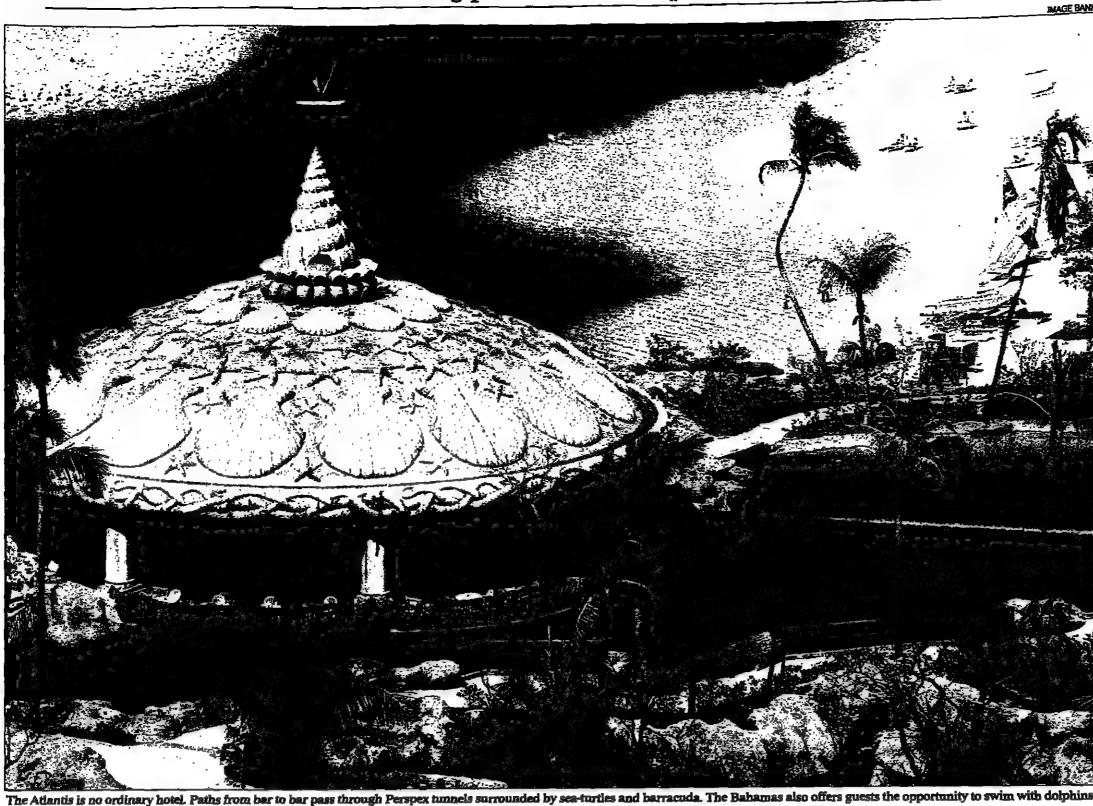
Gerry Taylor ● The author was a guest of

please let me know.



Roussillon, by Andrew Sanger (A&C Black, £12.99). An Englishman in the Midi, by John P. Harris (BBC, £4.99). Call 0345 16 00 00 or see yo

The Bahamas: One is a swimming pool, the other a pool full of sharks - make sure you know which



In at the deep end ... carefully

his is a holiday story about sea creatures. When we awoke after a transatlantic flight in a modern Bahawas delighted to find long grey shapes basking in the pool outside that they were plastic, that the large, black round thing, floating like a lorry's flat tyre, was a piece of Miami-style marine decoration, the sort of feature that one might expect in a waterfront casino-hotel where

cruise ships call in. He replied with greater assurance than mine. These sharks and stingrays were real, he said, pointing out clear movement among some of them. We decided that it would be wise, especially in any morning blur or after a pair of pina coladas, to take a careful check that the swimming pool was not also a sea aquarium. And so we did.

The Atlantis is no ordinary hotel. To walk from bar to bar is to pass through Perspex tunnels surrounded by sea-turtles and sea bass. What does the barracuda feed on. I asked one of the keepers. At 200lb, pretty much anything it wants, he replied, waving airily at clouds of blue and yellow tropical fish, enough to supply pet shops from Nassau to San Diego.

I had read a little Hemingway on the plane journey to acclimatise myself to what he described as these "Islands in the Stream". So at least I recognised some of the creatures that the great fish-killer had made famous. I also flicked through two other books of local colour, the first an account of grisly mobster murder during the wartime governorship of the Duke of Windsor, the second a thin Sixties thriller about sex. sand. construc-



tion and casinos. This novel, it soon became clear, was set in the early days of Paradise Island where our hotel was now standing.

There were dozens of easily recognisable details. If anyone were planning to settle in the Bahamas it would be well worth reading Robert Wilder's An Affair of Honour (even if it is available only in libraries).

The sharks there are white-faced and grey-suited. The dangers be-low the sea are a laboriously extended metaphor for the perils of black demagogues, bent bankers and small-time criminals in a small but expanding pond.

A navigator-hero has to find his way through identical-looking channels; on one side there is safety; beneath the other lie the wrecking rocks which for centuries have brought Bahamians their booty. Businessmen, he suggests, should beware.

Tourists, it appears, need to be less wary. The Bahamas today is making successful efforts to wel-

come its visitors, Outside Nassau's main streets, crime is low. A more useful book would have been a manual of the marine life, a puide to non-human sharks. As a gambling haven, Atlantis has Las Vegas games and Las Vegas rules: at least

if you were in the Nevada desert you could hope to hear Engelbert Humperdinck at the same time, But as an aquarium hotel. Atlantis is a real rarity - there can be few places in the world where fish and guests share so much space and

The Bahamas Reservation Service (0171-434 9915) will book hotels. Seven nights at the Atlantis on Paradise Island starts from £696, room-only,



Unwinding at the Bluff House Club where the emphasis is on relaxation

pink by showbiz had only been walking for an hour, in the zigzag way that tourists and houseflies do, when I encountered for the third time a group of men whizzing around on their buggy. Familiarity did not dampen their etiquette they waved hello and smiled at my floral hat flapping in the breeze.

Tickled

You get to know your neigh-bours quickly on Harbour Island, one of the more developed islands in the Bahamas. Measuring barely three miles by one mile, and washed by the Atlantic, it is a bit like a Bahamian version of Lundy. On both islands, tourists provide the major source of income and are regarded as much a part of the community as the island-dwellers.

Mercifully, there are differences.
Here, the Atlantic waters are warm and tempting, and the roads are lined with houses painted in rainbow colours. There are also more than 2,000 inhabitants to Lundy's 20-odd, so visitors lured by the promise of a quiet, tropical retreat can also enjoy the vibrance which sweeps the island after dark.

Nature has bestowed upon its shores a sand of pale pink, which falls off the toes and looks glorious against a blue sky and green sea. Canny marketing means that news of the sand has spread far and wide. Now, with the reopening of Pink Sands, a collection of upmarket cottages on a private stretch of beach, the island has become a hip place to wind down.

That Pink Sands does not look or feel out of place here is a tribute to the slightly anarchic style of Chris Blackwell. owner of Island Records, who recently added the place to his blossoming hotel empire. The resort is a fusion of colour, space and music, and harmonises perfectly with its laid-back setting.

.The well-spaced cottages are swathed in shrubbery, according each a high degree of privacy. The bar and restaurants are spaces rather than rooms, and golf buggies inject a bit of fun into moving around the grounds.

The link with Blackwell has assured the resort of an affluent cilentele drawn from pop and showbiz. The restaurant has become a place to eat and be seen.

half-term break, was on the outer

islands known as the Abacos. The Bluff House Club is a group of

cottages around a meeting place and restaurant. There is a party

almost every night, an atmosphere

as far as possible from that of a

here have no keeper. This is the

formerly barren bit of the Bahamas

where Americans loyal to George

III shipped up after losing the War

from Bluff House, is still a place of

clapboard houses and colonial memorabilia. Despite a hundred

hurricanes it still looks like a piece

Lincoln, the hotel's local hero,

takes us fishing for half a day. At

first our attempts at Hemingway-

emulation are weaker than we

could imagine. One hour produced

a single miserable trigger fish, a

stubby cobalt and orange creature

that Atlantis would have used for

him. Sand sharks are quite friendly

PETER STOTHARD

tween your toes.

of New England - and hence a

piece of old England too.

New Plymouth, a golf-buggy ride

of Independence.

sino - and the sharks and rays

However, just hanging out on the beach and in the bar spotting stars doesn't do the island justice. You could try starspotting on horseback, since you can go riding along the beach. A half-day fishing trip proved to be more fun than had expected, partly because the fisherman had a habit of communing earnestly with his prey.

Te were able to pass close to some of the deserted islands nearby, such as Man Island. Six of us, dropped off in pairs by our fishermen after a hard morning's casting, spent a few peaceful hours here, swimming in the still water, collecting shells and musing over a piculc.

The eventful day was crowned with an outing to Sea Grapes, the best nightspot on the island. It was more like a community centre than a club, and was buzzing as much outside as within. We hitched rides with Islanders to other quieter bars, where the welcome was still warm and the rum just as strong.

Then, bathed in the wonderful warmth of the evening, it was time for a dip in the freshwater pool at Pink Sands, and a stroll along the beach. With a cocktail in hand, sand in my toes and the sound of the sea in my ears, I was ready to fall asleep in one of the most heavenly places on Earth.

ANJANA AHUJA

The author was a guest of the Bahamas Tourist Office. Island Outpost (0800 614790) offers half-board packages at Pink Sands from US\$305 (E190) for a one-bedroom cottage in summer. Caribbean Connection (01244 341131), Elegant Resorts (01244 897999) and Caribtours (0171-581 3517) also offer packages to Pink Sands.

BAHAMAS FACT FILE

Several tour operators feature the islands. Knoni (01306 742222) has seven nights at the Atlantis from £863, room-only, from September-December, Thomson Holidays (0990 502555) starts charter flights to the Bahamas from Gatwick and Manchester in May until October 25. Prices for a two-week holiday, room-only, start at £795.

Seven nights at the Atlantis on Paradise Island starts from £696, room-only, based on two sharing. Prices for seven nights at Bhill House start at £630. The Atlantis is also represented in the UK by Sun International (01491 411222). Summer room rates, excluding local taxes, start at \$145 (£85).

Manerican Airlines (0181-572 5555) files daily to Nassau via Miami. Prices start at £440 in low season and £512 high season.

Bibritish Airways (0345 222111) files on Tuesdays and Fridays direct to Nassau. Tickets booked 21 days in advance cost £691 including tax.

For further information: The Bahamas Tourist Office (01483 448900).

Reading: The Story of the Bahamas, by Paul Albury (Macmillan, £5.95), Islands in the Stream, by Ernest Hemingway (Flamingo, £5.99), Insight Guide. Bahamas (£12.99).

prohibition bourbon to New York and where the drug-runners ran until the government was paid enough by Washington to run them out - you can swim with dolphins. One moment you are flat in the are being pushed by double-dolphin power and your head is thrust

where barracuda and pina colada

so pleasurably meet. Take a short

boat ride and you can even break

through the Perspex barriers. The

dolphin-swimming experience used to be available in many

American resorts until the sea-

reature protection leagues decided

that it was a bad experience for the dolphins. But the Bahamas has long prided itself on relaxation. shark food. But then came a halfdozen groupers and a harpoon full of lobsters for broiling on the ut on the tiny island bays - the sort that the During Lincoln's cooking show, we went swimming beside the pines of Munjaq bay. This was surely the paradise of which so wreckers used for trapping Spanish cargoes, many brochures boast. Then there came the same grey shapes, the same round black rubbery beasts of the sea. Lincoln said they were safe. We believed

the bootleggers used for taking when you get to know them and stingrays eat bait-fish from bewater, the next moment your feet high above the sea-surface like the angel's face on a galleon's prow. Our second stop, on a one-week The author was a guest of the Bahamas Tourist Office.

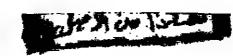
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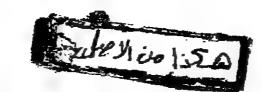
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The Baltic: From the seductively gentle charm of Denmark to the wildlife in Finland's woods and lakes

· Ain't nothing like a Dane



always feel at home in north Juliand. No, I don't speak Danish, but it has never been a problem. I have always taken the attitude that our national tongues stem from one, basic north European language; it may not be historical fact, but it is a workable theory.

Let me explain. To understand Danish road signs, you merely pretend you are reading German, pronounce the words with a Dutch accent, and imagine you are listening to a Glaswegian. It really is as straightforward as that A little lateral thinking helps. too. For example, let's say you arrive, as I did, in Saeby. It is by the sea: transpose the vowels. Easy.

If the weather is good you will head for the strand (beach, as in German); if not, the town centrum, where the turistbureau will probably recommend a visit to the kirke (Scots) with its vivacious medieval frescoes, or the nearby Gedebjerget ("Goat-mountain" - say Gede with a very heavy Dutch accent and think of bjerg as the German berg. OK, it is stretching it a bit). There you can enjoy views over the historiske little port before dropping off your letters home at the posthus

(Dutch-Glaswegian). if all that polyglotter sounds like too much effort. remember that most Danes and will bend over backwards to be helpful. In fact, they have made a cult of unhurried. hassle-free, tolerant existence, calling it hygge; one word which even a Berlin-born Netherlander from the Gorbals would be hardpressed to translate, it is pure Danishness.

Nowhere are the Danes more Danish than in Vendsyssel, the tip of the Jutland peninsula. I love this place; when an unexpected work-break opened last summer, the yearning to be there was irresistible. The only hurdle was financial: Denmark is a relatively expensive country to reach and to subsist in. The solution was drastic but instantly effective. At the age of 40, I rejoined the Youth Hostel Association and took advantage of the cross-Channel price wars. I ferried cheaply to Calais at dawn with my old but game Fiat Panda, then made the long trek north through the Low Countries and Germany.

It was two days' hard drive, with a stopover north of Hamburg, but I reached Vendsyssel by mid-afternoon. My two Danish hostels, Saeby and Bronderslev, were spick and span and comfortable and both attached to leisure cen-



Total cost of the author's holiday was about £400 including ferry. petrol, accommodation and food.

Scandinavian Seaways (0990 333000) crosses from Harwich to Esbjerg, Jutland, From £443 for one car and driver, £551 for a car and four passengers.

Accommodation: Joining the YHA costs E9.30: a substantial and informative guidebook to European hostels is £6.29 to members.

Each hostel cost about £8.50 per night. }



Summer Evening on South Beach (detail) at the Skagen Museum

fax. Dormitories in Danish hostels are likely to be mixed-sex unless you request otherwise. Family and double rooms are

Food: In Jutland basic fish and chip-type food can be found for DK65 (about £7.50) including a beer, on harbour quays or at hostel cafeterias. Some hostels offer breakfast, others have self-catering facilities.

Meals out (pizza, Chinese etc) cost about El2 per person including beer. Local cuisine, such as smorgashord, £12-£20 a head. About £100 (DK950) should see a person of moderate appetite, and with a taste for Scandinavian beer, through the week.

Vendsyssel Festival: For 1997 brochures/details. call 00 45 9892 4588. A Blue Card gives entrance to all concerts for DK400 (£39) for two.

Further information: Danish Tourist Board, 55 Sloane Street, London SWIX 95Y (0171-259 5958)

Reading: Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow. by Peter Hoeg (Panther, £6.99). Blue Guide Denmark (A&C

tres with thoroughly affordable cafeterias.

So what was it that lured me there? Vendsyssel is a very special stretch of land, but you have to be attuned to its pace and values. It is neither an Arctic tundra nor a Mediterranean hot-spot, being no further north than inverness nor south than Aberdeen.

the Danish summer can be glorious and there is no better place to be when the sun shines. A pewter-coloured beach is never more than 20 minutes' drive away, and the relaxed atmosphere there. with near-nudity optional but unexceptional for all ages, is wonderfully refreshing.

Saeby is a good place to begin acquaintance with Vendsyssel. A Viking harbour that mellowed into a fishing port, it retains a 19th-century atmosphere, with half-timbered houses painted in warm ochres and rusts. Plaice and herring are dried and smoked on the quay, from where you can follow the course of the river inland, walking between reed beds and pleasant lawns punctuated with quirky

It is as quaint as north Jutland gets, but Saeby stops well short of being twee: go directly across to Lokken, on the west coast, and you will come across Vendsyssel's nearest thing to brashness. In

fact, the contrast is not that great. Lokken allows cars on to its beach and you will see the flags of Norway, Sweden and Germany hoisted piratically above some of the venerable camper vans; but if any of these holidaying students play their radios too loudly for your liking, just move a little further on. There is plenty of room for all.

Inland you will discover a gentle landscape - this is a chamfered hillocks clad in the blue-greens and yellow-golds of arable crops. Sprays of mauve or Wedgwood blue wildflower, and the ubiquitous chalk-coloured marguerite. dapple the meadows. Humanity is most often represented white, signpost-shaped church towers or broadhipped wooden windmills

alongside their sleek young offspring, wind-turbines. The scenery is more comforting than dramatic - Denmark's highest bump reaches a dizzy 147 metres and is called Sky Mountain, a typical piece

of Danish wryness. Explore Vendsyssel's undulations long enough and you will stumble across the strangest places: Rubjerg Knude, for example, is a lighthouse built in 1900 to warn mariners away from the shifting sands of the west coast. Nature struck back, piling up a huge dune to obscure the light. In 1968 the Danes shrugged. closed the lighthouse and

Rubjerg Knude, a lighthouse built in 1900, is now a museum dedicated to sand but is slowly being engulfed by the stuff it commemorates turned the building into a museum - of sand. The final

irony is that the museum is

slowly being engulfed by the

stuff it commemorates, Further north you will come across a huge migratory dune, Rabjerg Mile, a mini-desert that roams the countryside. Once, habitation of north Jutland was a constant battle against sand-drift and sand storms. Canny planting finally calmed the terrain, but Rabjerg Mile has been left as a

reminder of the past. Continue north and you will come to Grenen, a final. tapering frond of sand at Denmark's very tip. On a warm day you will see holidaying Danes crowding on to this narrow space for the pleasure of standing with each foot in a different sea - the

Skagerrak or the Kattegat, It is for it was the setting for a tradition, but whether it brings good luck or just a warm glow of hygge I cannot say. Below Grenen is the lively port-resort of Skagen, and one of my favourite spots - the museum of the Danish

n artists' colony settled here in the late 19th century, to take advantage of the prismatic light, P.S. Krover and his colleagues captured on canvas the lunar silver of the beaches, the skies' glorious transition from deep cobalt overhead through luminous gradations of blue to the translucent eggshell of the horizon.

This time my visit to the museum had a special magic.

Oursesturitus

RUSSIA

FINLAND

concert in the Vendsyssel Festival. Each summer, in July and August, Danish and visiting musicians give concerts in

venues throughout the region. The atmosphere is intimate and friendly and the quality of performance is high. On this occasion Denmark's internationally renowned Kontra Quartet gave an extra vi-

brance to the paintings. As I looked at the glowing canvases and at the wise, open faces of the Danes around me, I realised why I feel so strongly about this museum. These artists celebrated the beauty and goodness of Vendsyssel Like me, they thought it one of the most special places on earth.

BRIAN HUNT

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25 SHILLING'S ORIFICE

(c) At the start of the 1939-45 war there was extreme concern that in real combat the Hurricanes and Spidires suffered a severe loss of power when going into a dive. This was traced to loss of gravity in the carburettor. The German Me 109, having direct injection, did not suffer this problem. A Miss Shilling of RAE Parnborough solved the problem and made her name with a diaphragm with a small hole (orifice) placed inside the float chamber of the carburettor.

(b) At the hind end of the spinal cord of fishes is a small jump consisting of masses of secretion produced by neurosecretory cells of the spinal cord, and hence called the urophysis. Its function appears to be connected with salt regulation. Injection of hypertonic NaCl produces hypersecretion, the products accumulating at the cut surface if the cord has been severed.

(b) in Zaire (formerly the Congo), a kind of bread made of manioc. The native name. "In those happy days ten cakes of kwanga could be bought

(a) A leguminous plant of New Zealand (Sophora tetraptera) bearing golden-yellow flowers. From the Maori name. Rudyard Kipling, Seven Seas, 1896: "Buy the kowhai's gold/ Flung for gift on Taupu's face."

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ari Peltomaki settled the feet of his tripod among the bilberries and rotting. moss-covered logs of the wood-

land floor and gestured for me to look through the eyepiece of the telescope. Staring fiercely through the other end were the unblinking yellow eyes of a great grey owl. The bird seemed enormous, more than 2ft tall with the unmistakeable facial discs around its eyes emphasised by regular dark contour lines. It sat bolt upright on a branch and sent deep booming "Hoo-hoo-hoos" ringing through the A higher and more plaintive

'yap-yap-yap' came in response from one of her distant youngsters, newly fledged but as yet unable to fly any distance. Another large owl, her mate, swept up to the perch and without bothering to close his wings, swooped away again. For a moment I saw the silhouette of a great grey owl against a light sky with a short-tailed vole hanging limply from her bill; then she was away to silence the complaints of her shrill young-

ster with breakfast. Peltomaki's owis had taken up residence in part of Finland's vast national forest. described by Marcus Walsh of Birdlife International in Helsinki as "not some great nature reserve but a huge tree field cropped at longer intervals than agriculture's normal annual harvest". But to someone from a country about two-

All the beasts of the forest Lapland

Guil of Bothing

FACT FILE

Finnair (0990 997711) has regular flights from Heath-row to Helsinki, from £224 return. Internal flights to

Oulu cost from ElOL. Finnature (00 358 8 381914) runs tailor-made wildlife tours, with B&B from £15 per night and forest guides from £25 per hour. Contact the Finnish Tour-

ist Board, 30-35 Pall Mall, London SWIY 5LP (0171-930 5871). Reading: Where to watch birds in Scandinavia (Hamlyn Birdwatching Guides £16.99).

Il times its population these thousands of miles of openaccess forest were bliss. Little of it is original uncut or "old growth" forest, however, for most of that is along the Russian border where it abuts a similar habitat on the other

This is a stronghold of wolves, wolverines and brown bears and I stayed the night with Lassi Rautiainen, a Finnish wildlife photographer. We slept in his hide, no more than a big wooden box, just a kilometre from the Russian border, with a couple of dead cows outside to attract the bears which were prowling

around. The first one rolled out of the forest into the clearing like a Russian tank After a cautious entrance, he reached the first cow and. taking hold of it in his massive jaws, bunched his muscles and tugged it nearer to the forest, before wrenching off great chunks of flesh.

He disappeared and was replaced by two more bears, a male and his mate. I watched until past midnight, making full use of 24 hours of daylight to enjoy this rare spectacle. The likelihood is that more

Finns have seen Saimaa seals than bears, though, despite the fact that there are only about

200 of these endangered subspecies of the ringed seal left in existence. They have become something of a conservation cause and live in a small area of Lake Saimaa. This is a convoluted and

intricate body of water covering more than 400 square kilometres and is one of Finland's 186,000 lakes. I spent an evening on its shores with Jukka Jantunen and his family. enjoying home-cooked Finnish food, freshly smoked fish, wonderful bird watching and a sauna.

Tinland has an excellent system of well-funded national parks and other protected areas but one which has failed to receive the protection it deserves is Liminganlahti Bay, an internationally important site for breeding and migrating wildfowl on the Gulf of Bothnia

It has been recognised by the World Wide Fund for Nature and has been declared a Natura 2000 site under a European Habitats Directive but, as Peltomaki told me in exasperation: "Every summer hunters are still allowed to shoot more ducks here than

hatch in the spring."
The long-standing Finnish tradition of the macho-hunter surviving against all the odds in the wilderness is difficult to

MICHAEL WOODS • The author was a guest of the Funish Tourist Board and

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The Travel Collection Britain: On the trail of Laurie Lee in the Gloucestershire countryside plus the pick of gardens to visit

Untouched by green wellies

t was under a haywain in Gloucestershire that Laurie Lee swigged at a flagon of cider with Roste. While the farmer's men all scythed and raked and turned the long dry grass of the Cotswold valleys, the future author stole his first heady kiss from the smiling girl whose hair was "rich as a wild bee's nest" and whose eyes were full of stings".

The Gloucestershire countryside was on the cusp of change even then. "I belonged to that generation which saw, by chance, the end of a thousand years' life," wrote Lee. In recent years, new images of this county have been stamped on to the mind by the tread of the Range Rover tyre and the imprint of the green wellington. But the essence of a quainter age still lingers, and there is time during a weekend to uncover it.

Gloucestershire is still a county of little stone villages "moored like ships in the empty landscape", of beechwoods dripping with rainwater and lush summer valleys slumbering in the haze.

Almost 100 years before Lee was deposited by carrier's cart in the Cotswold landscape which he was to make his own, Captain Robert Holford was planning the first trees of his arboretum in nearby

During his lifetime, and that of his son George, trees and shrubs were collected from all over the world's temperate zones and laid out in Westonbirt's magnificent 600-acre landscape. A Saturday afternoon stroll is long enough to appreciate it, but only determined walkers should attempt to get from one end to the other and back.

Now the largest arboretum in Europe, Westonbirt is beautiful during any season of the year. In the winter when, with early nightfall, the paths are lit with twinkling lights, it is a world of glass, sparkling and motionless. The frosty skeletons of deciduous trees etch brittle patterns against the

In the spring, where the ancient

FACT FILE

Calcot Manor, near Tethury Gloucestershire (01666 890391). Double mons cost from £48.50 per person per night, B&B. Two-night Cotswold breaks from £69 per person per night B&B. Family rooms cost £145 per night for two adults and up to three

Other places to stay include: Hunters Hall, Kingscote, Tetbury (01453 860393), a 16th-century coaching inn: £45 single room.

Other places to visit in the area Chavenage, an Elizabethan

house near Tetbury with an interesting history.
Owlpen Manor, Owley, near Uley, an attractive medieval Hodges Barn, near Telbury, a 15th-century dovecot with magnificent gardens. The Cotswold Countryside museum of rural life.

Silk Wood sweeps across a shallow valley, carpets of bluebells dust the ground, rhododendrons flare amid pools of sunlight and clouds of blossom bank the sky. The lime avenue in summer is dizzy with bees and nearby beech trees stand, as Lee himself might have remembered them, drenched in sun as if with "wild wet honey". But it is perhaps in the autumn that the arboretum is most glorious, when maple leaves blaze in gold and crimson and the glades burst into burnished flame.

Not far from Westonbirt the landscape changes, slipping away into the watery fields of the Severn's eastern bank. It was there that in 1946 Sir Peter Scott founded Slimbridge, his Wildlife and Wetlands Trust reserve. It is the world's most famous sanctuary for water birds, and for the weekend visitor to Gloucestershire it well merits a visit of several hours. Bird enthus-

iasts will obviously want to spend

When I last visited it was winter time, when the migrant birds some 12,000 of them - return. With a paper bag of grain in my hand, I walked like a guru among his worshipping flock. Geese gathered around me with watchful greed; gawky cygnets pecked at my palms and allowed me to stroke their downy necks.

I threw a handful of grain into the water and watched 100 little ducks' bottoms all upturn, Flotillas of pochards and pintails, shelduck and smew scrambled and squabbled around the gliding prows of a fleet of graceful swans.

oarded walkways lead visitors through the marshes
— studded in summer with the purples and golds of wetland blooms. The waterlogged air echoes with the cry of the lapwing and the whistle of teal. From a hide overlooking the estuary flats I watched curlew and whimbrel, a godwit and some gulls. And I stayed watching until my fingers were frozen, curled round the binoculars, and the rims of my ears were burning with cold.

Back at Calcot Manor, the hotel I was staying. I warmed myself slowly by an open fire. It, too, seemed part of a world which Lee might have known - like the "big house" where he sang carols, perhaps, with its "ivied walls ... and gabled windows veiled by

I telephoned a friend who lived nearby to invite her to join me for dinner. "Calcot Manor?" she said. That was where my husband proposed to me." Times may have changed since Lee first drank cider with Rosie

Burdoch, but for those prepared to

spend a couple of days searching. they have not changed too much. RACHEL **CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON**

● The author was a guest at Calcot



The hamlet of Hilcot near Laurie Lee country in Gloucestershire, where villages are "moored like ships in the empty landscape"

Led up a perfect garden path dendrons and azaleas around

Younger Botanic Garden lies amid breathtaking scenery in the West of Scotland

Younger Botanic Stratbelyde (01369 706261)

7m north of Duncon on A815. Open tomorrow for Scotland's Garden Scheme and then daily to end Oct. 10am-6pm. £2, children 50p

Overlooking the Eachaig River and Holy Loch, with hills all around, Younger Botanic enjoys one of the most spectacular positions of any garden in Britain. And being part of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, the 150 acres, where planting began during the 1820s, form a rare treasure-house of horticultural importance. Spring and early summer are the most rewarding times to visit, and the annual open day for Scotland's Garden Scheme could hardly be better timed. Early-flowering varieties among the garden's immense rhododendron collection will be out, but magnolias are

almost as well represented and the host of other flowering trees and shrubs, such as one of my favourite families. enkianthus, is seemingly endless. The approach along a truly majestic avenue of Wellingtonias — the best in the country — gives an intro-duction to the scale of conifers that can be expected. You can spend all day wandering the paths and enjoying the com-bined quality of plants and landscape.

Erdigg, Wrexham, Clwyd (01978 355314)

2m south of Wrexham off A525. Open daily except Thursday and Friday until November 2, Ham-opm E3.60, children £1.80

This is the time to visit Erdigg.

when the apple blossom is out - but bear in mind that the garden becomes very busy on bank holiday weekends. House and garden are one of the National Trust's great rescue stories. Both were in an advanced state of decline (the last member of the Yorke family, who worked for years to hold the property together. was reputed to tether a goar on the lawn in place of using a mower) when acquired by the Trust in 1973, but restoration led to Erdigg swiftly becoming

Erdigg was saved from its decline by the National Trust long brick house is early 18th century, and the garden was restored with the principal aim of retaining a formal garden of the immediate prelandscape period. The Yorke family, who lived in Erdigg for nearly 300 years, continued to change the garden and this is carefully reflected in the Trust's work. In front of the house, the 19th-century par-terre is now planted with forget-me-nots that will later make way for a scheme of midsummer flowers. The brick walls that flank the long

rectangular garden support

formally planted orchard containing many rare apple varieties which were in cultivation during the early 18th century. Avenues of fresh-leafed pleached limes, an original formal canal and clipped yews and Portuguese laurels add to the atmosphere of wellplanned orderliness. ■ Pashley Manor, Ticchurst, Wadhurst, Kent (01580 200692) On the B2099 between Ticehurst and A21. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and

Bank Holiday Mondays to

end Sept and October 21-26.

Ham-Spm. £3.50, children

espalier apples, while the cen-

tral area is dominated by a

It is always interesting to visit a garden where extensive renovation has been carried out, as is the case at Pashley. The elegant house with its main facade dated 1720, the terraces, most and parkland setting all provide a sense of establishment which makes for easy accommodation of changes. These have been carried out since the late 1980s, with an emphasis on new beds with quantities of shrub roses and a

variety of flowering shrubs. At their peak now are the rhodo-

woodland area which forms the second part of the garden, quite different in style from the ings. The variety is completed by the restored brick-walled kitchen garden. From May 1-5 there is a tulip festival, one of a series of events at Pashley through the year, when the display of tulips in the garden is complemented by arrangements in the house. (Admission for the tulip festival is E4.50 (or adults.)

the ponds and leading to the

■ Hartland Abbey. Hartland, near Bideford, Devon (01237 441264)

At Hartland Point, 15m west of Bideford, 5m off A39. Open tomorrow for National Garden Scheme. then May I to end September, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holidays (and Tuesdays in July and August), 2-5.30pm. E1.50, children 50p.

Hartland occupies one of the most sensational positions imaginable, and is worth the journey just to discover the house sitting serenely in a long wooded valley stretching in land from the dramatic coast at Hartland Point, with its high cliffs. It was the last monastery in England to fall in the Dissolution on account of its remoteness. The surroundings are completed by the tower of St Nectan's church on the hilltop beyond the house. The latter was adapted from the original abbey buildings, with the garden lying mostly on slopes either side of the open grass valley. Tomorrow visitors can enjoy the sheltered walled gardens as well as the more extensive areas of woodland garden where camellias and a good variety of other flowering shrubs are at their best. No visit is complete without taking the path, lined with wildflowers, that leads to the coast, and you leave reassured that there are still a few places in England where modern development has not intruded.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE





Pashley Manor offers three contrasting styles of garden



Bour A quick look at Lebanon

Wish yo

the contract of the wife

description of the allege of the

book and a nine of the

Famous food



AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Bound for Morocco

EXOTIC if expensive trips from Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions (0171-381 8638) include a long weekend in southern Morocco's ancient red-earth walled city of Taroudant.

The accommodation is the five-star Gazelle d'Or Hotel, tucked away in secluded 250-acre gardens and orange groves, with the snowcapped Atlas Mountains as a backdrop. Taroudant's souks are excellent and the resort of Agadir is nearby. Flights, transfers and three nights' half-board accommodation are included in the price of £725.

A quick look at Lebanon

THE historical highlights of the Lebanon are included on the new three-night tour from Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) with £527 covering flights, B&B accommoda-tion and guiding throughout.

Byblos is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settle-ments in the world, with Roman columns embedded in Arab walls, Hellenistic remains packed with prehistoric stones. The enchanting fishing village also claims the first Roman example of the alphabet, as well as giving its name to the Bible - the word means book. The site of Baaibek, the ancient City of the Sun, shocks by its sheer vastness. Just one of its smaller temples is larger than the Parthenon, though as a symbol of power the Roman city proved a largely vain gesture.

An Islamic Umayad 8th-century walled city and the 18th-century Arabian Beiteddine Palace are also on the itinerary. Fly-drive breaks are available for those who prefer to explore independently.

FOR those wanting to get away immediately after the election, Arblaster & Clarke (01730 893344) offers a champagne weekend from Mav

3-5. The price of £269 includes coach travel, ferry crossing, two nights' accommodation in a three-star botel in Rheims with champagne for breakfast, one lunch and dinner, and a champagne tasting.

Famous food

A TEMPTING collection of short breaks have been organised by Inntravel (01653 62881). They in-clude walking (with luggage transported), cookery, gastronomic, flydrive and treasure hunts, staying in family-run auberges and hotels in unspoilt nooks and crannies of

A three-night fly-drive break in wooded Cathar country in the picture postcard village of Najac | of Messines before the disaster of | in the hotel's thermal spa. repre- | the aim is to find and identify as | in June and September on the

costs £329. It is based at the Oustal del Barry, which has been in the same family for generations and where the mansard rooms overlook medieval streets, the River Aveyron and a fairy-tale ruined 13th-century castle. People come from far and wide for the regional cooking. The price includes flights, car hire and half-board.

A WEEKEND break organised by Cycling for Softies (0161-248 8282) at Duras, in the Dordogne and Garonne, put the Bordeaux and Bergerac vineyards within easy biking reach for wine tastings. The price of £380 covers two nights' halfboard in a family-run hotel with its own pool and cycle hire, but not flights.

Right for Riga

GOVERNMENTS form and dissoive every few months in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but few locals care and tourists rarely notice. Their capital cities of Tallinn. Riga and Vilnius can now offer considerably more 1990s comforts but with 1970s prices in local shops and restaurants.

Three nights B&B in Tallinn from Bristol-based Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) costs £210. in Riga £252 and in Vilnius £246. including direct flights from Heathrow or Gatwick.

Battle memories



HISTORY and battlefield specialist Holts' Tours (01304 612248) is offering a number of new

brochure. A four-night Peninsular Walk "The Stand on the Frontier - 1810-1812" studies the cat-andmouse game of 1810 played around Almeida and along the River Coa, moving on to the horizons of Salamarica where "... forty thousand French were beat in forty . Inis costs 196

It is 80 years since General

Petersburg, After flying to Helsinki for one night's B&B. the break continues with a threenight cruise to the Russian city guided tours in its (with full board), and a half-day 21st anniversary sightseeing tour.

Austrian value IMPROVING exchange rates of nearly 20 schillings to £1 make Austria affordable, and a fournight break at the luxury Relais & Badgastein, with all meals and Plumer led the successful capture | drinks, and a massage and facial

Ypres: a two-night tour in June.

staying in Ypres (half-board) with visits to the battlefields and trench-

es, costs £305, including the ferry

crossing. The Last Post ceremony

CITY breaks of four nights for £650 between June and

in Ypres is a heart-wrencher.

August from Specialised Tours

(01342 712785) combine Helsinki

with a visa-free cruise to St

WILL CRAWSHAW'S ELECTION GETAWAYS

sents genuine value for £315. Once a hunting lodge belonging to Archduke Johann, the old wooden chalet-style hotel has been in the same family for generations.

An excursion in the hotel's vintage picnic car and a hearty mountain breakfast in the hills are also part of the deal, which lasts until June 17. Flights from Lauda Air cost £197 return. Details from Windotel (0171-730 7144).

Natural break

THE north Norfolk coast with its secretive creeks, dunes and reserves is a birdwatchers' delight in May, when the harriers, bitterns. bearded tits and avocets are preening themselves over their breeding sites, and the freshwater marshes

Naturetrek (01962 733051) has a two-night mid-May break when

HOLIDAYMAKERS already

suffering this week from air-port and ferry disruptions face

yet another summer of travel

discontent with warnings of

long delays in flights to

Greek Civil Aviation Author-

ity claim that 45 per cent of

radar equipment at Greek

airports is out of order, along

with the landing systems at Athens and Rhodes airports.

have led to an urgent plea

from the GCAA to resolve the

issue. It warns that otherwise

it would be unable to cope

with the volume of air traffic

and flight numbers would

consequently have to be

The warning follows the closure of Gatwick, Luton and

Stansted airports last Monday

due to bomb threats, and also

the blockade of Calais. Bou-

logne and Dunkirk by French fishermen.

T n the past decade few travellers

have visited Ethiopia. We are

Liberefore delighted to be able

to arrange for small parties of up

to lifteen participants to return to

Ethiopia offers the most ancient

cultural heritage of all sub-

equal

Saharan Africa, a land without

this ancient land. Without doubt,

reduced.

Other technical problems

Leaked documents from the

East Anglian species as country house hotel. The possible. The base is the resortcum-working port of Wells-nextweekend courses cost from £249 half-board. the-Sea, and the price is £149 half

Unspoilt by progress: Morocco is on the menu at Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions, which is offering a long weekend in the walled city of Taroudant for £725

If Norfolk is the Mecca for birds. Ireland's strange limestone THOUGH Tunisia's coast is well Burren is a natural rock garden packaged, its capital Tunis, the "Cairo" of the Oscar-winning film that nurtures a huge variety of colourful and unique plants. Naturetrek's three-night half-The English Patient, is relatively board weekend from May 23-26 costs £299 (without flights) with hotel accommodation at Lisdoonvarna. Both trips are led by

A CHANCE to learn a hobby which can become an obsession is offered by Angling Travel (01263 761602). Its two-night weekend courses in the fisherman and television presenter, include trout fishing

Bargain offers Wye and Dove rivers, staying at a

SAVINGS of up to 25 per cent and more have been announced by short-break specialist Kirker Holi-days (017)-231 3333).

A four-night break in a three star hotel in the centre of Madrid with B&B, is reduced to £299 from £357. A two-night break to Paris travelling by Eurostar with accommodation in a central three-star hotel, a Seine minicruise, a camet of Metro tickets and dinner at Brasserie Flo, now costs £263.

PERFORMANCES of Tosca, La Traviata, Cosi Fan Tutte and Madame **Butterfly at Prague's State** Opera House are the highlights of a series of two-night weekend breaks (Saturday night must be one of them) with Fregata (0)71-45! 7066). The breaks cost £348 hotel return flights from Heathrow and a city tour. Opera

tickets are between £20 and £30.

Wish you were here?

Jeremy Seal

on the travel guide to hell

guidebook which tells A the going rate charged by the Chechen mana for battlefront tours, how to bribe your way out of jail and how to survive shell or rocket attacks in war zones is doing brisk business. It is even

outselling some of the main-

stream travel guides.
The first edition of American publisher Fielding's The World's Most Dangerous Places sold 30,000 copies in America last year. Since January, when the second edition was first distributed in Britain, it has been selling "surprisingly well", says Douglas Schatz at Stanfords Travel Bookshop, Covent Garden,

central London. The guide covers threats from terrorists and brutal dictatorships to disease and getting caught up in the drugs business. Information on comparative death rates in notorious minibus taxis from Lima to Nairobi is also included, You are advised against flying in Russia, Colombia and India, and told to watch out for tourist crime in Brazil, Spain and Florida ("As soon as you don that Hawaiian shirt, you may as well paint a bull's eye on your back").

There are assessments on more than 30 "dangerous"



Waiting to greet you: troops in war-torn Afghanistan

places, with Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Colombia and Somalia heading the list. Separate sections concentrate on places that are forbidden to Americans (but often not to Brits), such as Iran and Cuba.

ecause many of the B featured countries — Iran. Burma, Cambodia. Ethiopia and Turkey are available through tour operators, it is tempting to put the success of Dangerous Places down to a death wish among travellers. In fact, the tour operators that feature such countries conspicuously avoid the danger spors.

Steppes East features Burma and Cambodia, notorious for anti-personnel mines. "There is a risk," says Nick Laing, the managing director,

"What can

I do with

that

old barn?!9

See p.23

"but only if you go way off the tourist routes, which we do not." Exodus has been so successful selling Iran that it is running a new tour this year to the country's Valley of the Assassins - not the alarming place it sounds but impressive trekking country.

Despite the Japanese embassy siege in Lima. Peru has attracted 50 per cent more tourists every year since 1994. The guide's writers are veterans of everything from jail and mid-air hijacks to attacks by African killer bees. Emulating them is apparently not much of a factor in buying the book, "Sure, there's always the occasional nutcase heading for Burundi, "says Hugh Brune at Portfolio, the guide's UK dismibutor, "but it's an armchair

read for most people."

So sit back and read about Algeria, "the world's most dangerous place for foreigners; a country where funda-mentalists ... like to cut throats and shoot expais, and eye-witness accounts of meeting warlords in eastern Turkey, and surviving the Los Angeles riots.
Richard Trillo, at Rough

Guides, considers the book "ghoulish but fascinating", and thinks it will have added appeal for people who trav-elled to now-banned destinations, such as Afghanistan. in happier days. In case you are planning

such a trip, Dangerous Places prints a lengthy disclaimer by the publishers.

• The World's Most Dangerous Places (Fielding, £13.95).



Singles get an unfair deal

From Mary Simmons, Abingdon: l sympathise with Jean Leftey

(Weekend, April 12) wanting to travel to Italy at a leisurely pace. I am also alone, as are thousands of others who are widowed or single. My main concern is that you have to pay a hefty supplement for a single room, I cannot under stand why you should have to pay so much more for a holiday than somebody sharing a twin-bedded room. Even if you go away with a friend, you do not necessarily want to share a room with them. I did last year and discovered that

she snored.

Clifford Homan, Driffield, East Yorkshire: It would appear Cuba is becoming ever more favoured as a holiday destination by the British. This is fine as Cuba is desperately short of dollars and, in addition, several consumer items. May I appeal to anyone travelling there to take ballpoint pens to give to children, T-shirts of all sizes and chewing gum. But the most important commodity is soap, which is severely rationed (a small, hotel complimentary-sized bar per fam-Dy per month). A few small gifts such as these would make an appreciable difference to Cubans.

· We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to: Letters, Travel Department, The Times. I Pennington Street, London El 9XN or fax 0171-782 5124.

Go-slow in Greece

more attention.

TRAVEL NEWS

ECRUISING is becoming a younger person's holiday but only slowly. Last year, the average British cruise passenger was aged 56, two years younger than in 1994, according to the Passenger Shipping Association.

More than 429,000 people took a cruise in 1996, up by a fifth over 1995, with the Mediterranean accounting for 40 per cent of the market. And this growing appeal has brought about stronger comnetition and lower prices. The average price paid last year was £1,191, compared to

E1,385 two years ago. A NEW car ferry service will connect Liverpool to Dublin from June 12. The Isle of Man

Steam Packet Company (01624 645645) will operate a conventional daily ferry, the journey taking six and a half hours. On Wednesdays a catamaran will run, trimming two hours

off the trip.

Time for Tunis

unknown and deserves much

A large colourful Medina, fine

restaurants and the Bardo Mus-

eum with a superb collection of

Roman mosaics are among the

attractions, plus suburbs that in-

clude Carthage and the beautiful

blue and white village of Sidi Bou Said, both accessible by the jolly

little TGM train that leaves from

orama (01273 206531) has three

and four-night B&B breaks which

include flights, from £199-£329.

■ THE STRENGTH of sterling against several currencies has seen Keith Prowse (01232 232425) reduce the price of tickets to Port Aventura theme park near Barcelona. Adult prices for one-day tickets fall to E20 (from E22.50) and child prices to £15.50 (from £17.50). Two and three-day tickets are

the start of a Garwick-Lisbon service by AB Airlines. The

also available. **ELECTION** day also sees

erating twice a day (once on Saturdays), with fares starting at Eli9 return. **EGROWING** tourist and

company (0345 464748) is op-

business travel interest in the Baltic states has seen Estonian Air cut fares to Tallinn. The airline (0171-333 0196), which flies from Gatwick, has cut fares to £230, although a Saturday night stay is required.

EFLYING from Gatwick is most likely to add to holiday delays, according to new sta-tistics from the Civil Aviation

Authority. Charter flights were delayed by an average 45 minutes last year, the worst of five airports studied. Gatwick was also slowest in 1995, with average 37-minute delays. Next worst is Manchester, averaging 34 minutes wait (1995: 33): Stansted 29 (32); Luton 24 (29) and Birmingham 21 (25).

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NEW ITINERARY -SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA

ETHOPIA

A 14 DAY JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FOR THE GENUINE TRAVELLER

With a recorded history which began in the 6th century BC, with the drawing of the Auximite civilisation, there sprang a line of Emperors who ruled with few interruptions until the death of Haile Salassie. Our visit will include their palaces in the old capital of Gondar and at Addis Ababa.

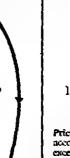
Christianity reached Ethiopia some 200 years before it arrived in Britian. On our visit to Lalibela we will see the amazing 12th century church, hewn from the rock. We will visit the island monasteries of Lake Tana and the ancient Monastery of Debre Libanos spectacularly located at the bottom of a large gorge through which runs one of the tributaries of the Blue Nile.

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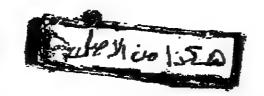
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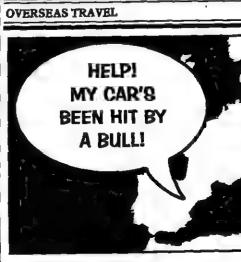
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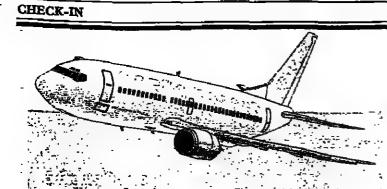
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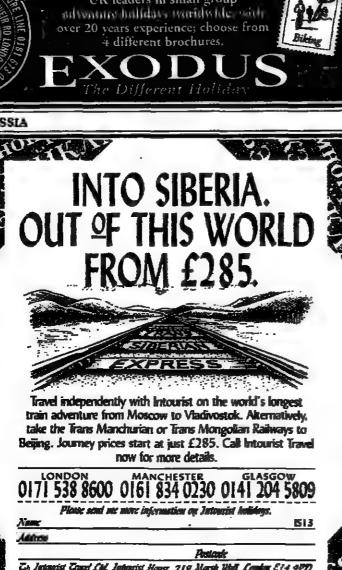
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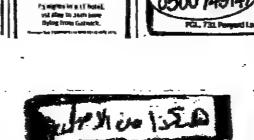


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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

SOME Black defences are considered respectable, some are not. If you play the Caro-Kann or the Sicilian, your chess credentials are impeccable. However, if you try the risky Scandinavian or Centre Counter Defence, your club and team mates' eyebrows are liable to be raised somewhat. Nevertheless, this defence, offbeat though it is, has had some notable exponents. including Bent Larsen, Viswanathan Anand, the 1995 World Championship challenger, Vassily (van-chuk and our own Michael Adams, Britain's number two.

A new book by John Emms shows that the Scandinavian may be unusual, but probably no more dangerous for Black than other mainstream defences. The following attractive game results in a dramatic win for White, true, but Black avoids the principal variation on move six and gets carried away with the thought of purloining a central pawn.

> White: Stuart Conquest Black: Julian Hodgson German Bundesliga 1995

2 exd5 Cxd5 4 d4 Nf6

Instead of 5 ... co Black can also try the tricky 5 ... Bg4. After 6 f3 Bf5 7 Nge2 c6 8 g4 Bg6 9 Nf4 Nbd7 IU h4 e5 II h5! Bf5 I2 gd5 ed4 I3 Qd3 Qc7 I4 Qe2+ Be7 I5 Bd2 Nb6 I6 Bh3 Rd8 17 0-0-0t Rxd4 18 Qg2 White had a strong attack in Yudasin-Oll, Dos

6 Bd2 Qc7!! Black probably should be content with 6 . . . Bis when 7 Nf3 leads to the main line. Bg4 8 h3 Bxf3

We have reached a position which Black should try to avoid. White has the two bishops, is ready to castle queenside and has the simple plan of launching the kingside pawns forward. In contrast, Black's position lacks any real prospects of counterplay.

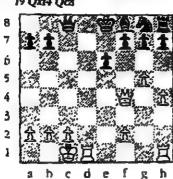
9 ... e6 10 0-0-0 Nbd7 11 g4 Nb6 12 Bfil An excellent square for the bishop. On b3 the bishop would only be prone to attack from ... a5-a4. 12 ... Rd8 13 g5 Ng8. An unnatural retreat, but 13 ... Nfd5 14

Ne4! followed by c4 would severely embarrass the knight. 14 b4! Ignoring the attack on d4. Hodgson could not resist the offer.

14 ... Rxd4 15 Nb5!! Commencing a brilliant attack on the black king, reminiscent of the dashing style of the 19th century American champion Paul Morphy. cach5 16 Bach5+Nd7

A star move, although Conquest admitted that the more sober 17 Bc3 would have been equally effective. 17... Rxf4. 17... Oxf4+ 18 Oxf4
Rxf4. 19 Rxd7 and Black will
be mated, e.g. 19... a6 20 Rhd1
axb5 21 Rd8+ Ke7 22 Rld7 mate. Alternatively, 19 . . . a6 20 Rhdi f6 21 Rd8+ Kf7 22 Be8+ Ke7 23 Rld?

18 Bxd7+ Qxd7. 18... Ke7 loses to 19 Qa3+, but 18 . . . Kd8 is more stubborn. Yet there is still a winning line with 19 Bxe6+ Ke8 (Or 19 . . . Ke7 20 Bc4!!) 20 Bd7+ Kd8 21 Qe3 Ne7 22 Bb5+ Kc8 23 Rd7. 19 Qxf4 Qc8



20 Rh. Initiating the final decisive assault, and making good use of the earlier h4! 20 . . . Ne7. 20 . . . Bc5 21 Rc3

followed by b4 is quite adequate to 21 Rf3 Nf5 22 Re3. Now that the knight has been deflected, this

move is a killer. 22 ... Bc5 23 Rxc5 Qxc5 24 Qb8+ Ke7 25 Qxb7+ Black resigns. 25... Ke8 26 Qd7+ Kf8 27 Qd8 is mate. A supreme

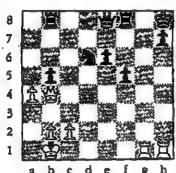
attacking display by Conquest. John Emms The Scandinavian Defence (Chess Press. £14.99) is available from Cadogan Books pic. 27-29 Berwick Street, London WIV 3RF (0171-287 6555).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Gallagher -Summerscale, Cannes 1997. White could simply capture the black knight on do and regain 8 material equality. However, he

has something far stronger. Can to The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the 3 Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rxd5 Last week's winner: A J Beatty, Old Windsor, Berkshire.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection. Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 49, Weekend, The Times, Pennington Street, London Ĕl 9XN,

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 30.





"We've just taken on a splendid new butler who goes by the name Swampy'

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by S.Williams of Thelwall, Cheshire

By Philip Howard

b. A slot machine Part of a carburettor UROPHYSIS

b. A lump in fish c. An EU study

c. A dance

KOWHAI a. A small shrub

WORD WATCHING

SHILLING'S ORIFICE a. Toad-in-the hole

a. Nuclear sickness

KWANGA a. A small animal b. Native bread

b. A chimney cap c. Obeisance

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE -- -- - -by Robert Sheehan

ONE OF the bridge classics, Adventures in Card Play by Geza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey, has just been reissued (£12.99. Master Bridge Series). It is full of intriguing and fascinating deals. But he ing and fascinating deals. But he warned - it is not easy reading and the coups have little relevance to day-to-day play. This is one of the easier hands.

₹Q962 1042 -7852 4962 N **40J753** ₹10448 **+73** ♦K985 S +KQ108 +K84 ₹AJ5 PAGUE + 394

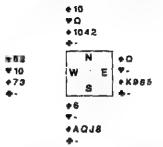
Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: king of clubs

East opens One Spade and South becomes the declarer in 3NT, East overtakes the king of clubs and the defence take their four tricks in the suit. East discarding two spades and South one. Now West switches to the nine of spades. Do you see what is going on?

Declarer has only one sure entry to dummy, and he needs to finesse in both diamonds and hearts. So to generate a second entry to dummy, he has to assume that East has the doubleton king of hearts.

Thus a reasonable practical line would be to win the spade in dummy (playing low from hand). finesse the jack of hearts and lay down the ace. Re-enter dummy with the marked finesse of the nine of hearts, and lead the ten of diamonds hoping that East started with three of the suit. That ap-proach fails when East is 5-4 in spades and diamonds. But noticing that you never cashed the fourth heart trick may give you the clue to the hest line. When you win the first round of spades with the ace you unblock the king from your hand a typical Ottlik manoeuvre. You can afford that, as your assumption about the hearts means you can throw your small spade before running the ten of diamonds.

See what develops. After three rounds of hearts (East discarding the jack of spades), this is the position, with the lead in dummy:



You play off the queen of hearts, with the idea of discarding the six of spades and running the ten of diamonds, as before hoping East has a 6-2-3-2 shape. But something dramatic happens - East is in trouble, and eventually discards the queen of spades.

Now you discard a diamond from hand, finesse a diamond, and cross back to the ten of spades to. take the last two tricks via another diamond finesse. You have brought. off a coup which Ottlik named an "entry squeeze".

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

select any of the plant pictures by Tim Wapshott and set them to a slide show with accompanying music. The Plant Care Movie is an ROGER PHILLIPS & MARTYN RIX instructional video, covering everything from pruning



Perfect Plants is a handy guide for keen gardeners and beginners

missions do not impress and units. Searching the levels I found a mission with Lightning Tanks but they were actually Radar Trucks, from the original Red Alert.

"When one truck sent an arc of lightning towards the enemy concluded that Westwood had merely messed around with the original programming code instead of producing a genuine upgrade to the game.

Martin Apps of Ashford. Kent, gave his low-down of all three Dungeons & Dragons titles in the Eye of the Beholder series. He decided that they were past their sell-by dates. "The original Eye of the Beholder gives the best game play but it is showing its age." he wrote. "The original title did give me several weeks of pleasure although the end of the game is a real turn off.

The follow-up, Legend of Darkmoon, was an improvement with better screens. story and game play although, once more, a poor ending. Still, it remains my favourite of the trilogy. The third instalment, Assault on Myth Drannor, was better

still but somewhat obscure to play and I had to track down hints on the Internet to solve some of the problems. These are classic games but they are now in dire need of updating," he concluded.

A-level student Catriana Kathaus of Northumberland takes to the slopes for her relaxation. In Microsoft's Skifree. "You get the exhilaration of downhill skiing on

the Alps without log, wind or the need to apply sun-block," she enthused. "Like any Alpine resort, the piste is extremely busy. Dogs trot in front of you and learners plough around oblivious to others. frequently end up splattered against a rock.

The idea is to soar over the jumps, each worth one point. But if a snowboarder collides with you then you get 100 points - and a sore head. The skill of the game, therefore, is manoeuvring the skier. into the path of a snowboarder. The graphics are simple and, sadly, there is no sound. But for a fun and easy game it's unbeatable."

Next week more entries and, still to come, news of our overall winner who will pick up a luxury weekendfor two in Rome. Keep your ideas and Top Tips - coming to the usual address.

This week's Top Tip, winning him a Microsoft title, comes from Dennis Hemmings of Paignton, Devon: "Should you have computer booting problems while in Germany, take care to explain that you need your 'DOS Boot' fixed, If you say 'DAS Boot' you could get an epic-length video about a German submarine crew during the Second World War.

zero and all the numbers are different.

No 1078

ACROSS

7 Sistine ceiling painter (12) 9 Mouth of Seine port (2.5) 10 Put down hard: cheap wine

11,17 Prosperous (4-2-2) 12 Lycanthrope (8) 15 Next prime after seventeen

17 Fuss (2-2)

21 Auburn person (7)

THE PERSON NAMED IN

22 Out of date (3-9)

19 Roman prophetess (5)

DOWN 1 Tyre pioneer; food guide (8)

2 Push rudely (5) 3 Part of jacket: protective wrapper (6) 4 Fish; photographer? (7)

5 Prohibition (4) 6 Libretto (4.2,5) 8 Explode with rage (4.4.3) 13 Distance-measurer: rode to

me (anag.) (8) 14 Of stars (7) 16 Of the soil; rather crude (6)

18 "(Life.) a tale told by an --(Macbeth) (5) 20 Portend (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1077 ACROSS: 1 Beget 4 Beatnik 3 For toffee 9 Coy 10 Tram 11 Penitent 13 Bleary 14 Bang on 17 Taj Mahai 19 Glib 22 Hal 23 Forsaking 24 Royal We 25 Bigot DOWN: 1 Befit 2 Germane 3 Thou 4 Buffer 5 American 6 Niche 7 Krypton 12 Dreadful 13 Butcher 15 Galling 16 Barrie 18 Jelly 20 Bight 21 Daub

TIMES CROSSWORDS: - Books RULL2.13 C3.99 each. The Times Concise - Book 2 1240 catales) E.99, Crossword Solver's Dictionary E11.95 (UK only). Crossword Manual 19.99 Collins Roger's International Theraneus 122.99 (UK only) The 2nd Compiles Book of The Times Crosswords (Cryptol 64.99 each. The Times Night Sky 1997 E3.50, NEW: The Times Two Crosswords Book of 12.99. TIMES COMPLETE CROSSWORDS by David Akethead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 distants (since 60 crosswords each, sokulearn leathy and epitimal HELP levels Include: fristet (since 60 crosswords each, sokulearn leathy and epitimal HELP levels Include: Times Crosswords 194 — Ormitus 1 & 2 (2 - 2) The Times Concest (4) The Times I was 60 — The Times I of the Crosswords 194 — Ormitus 1 & 2 (2 - 2) The Times Concest (4) The Times I was 60 — The Times I of the Crosswords 194 — Ormitus 1 & 2 (2 - 2) The Times Concest (4) The Times I was 60 — The Times I of the Crosswords 194 — Times I of the Cro

Priors per title/director:
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by genres or colours, and so on. The most redundant option is abcdefgh Browsing Plants, in which you can

Since laying out a garden is one hensive search engine of evof the more fundamental projects to ery plant featured, listed by tackle, such design packages rarely tin and common names. come in for heavy use. One of the Its a handy guide for most few gardening exceptions in the barren wilderness is Perfect Plants, from Macmillan Interactive Publishing. This Windows CD-Rom is a guide to the selection and care of 2,000 plants, including shrubs, trees, roses, perennials,

This indoor gardening tool is presented by Roger Phillips, of Channel 4's The 3,000 Mile Garden, and the botanist Martvn pictures of plants in their natural habitat or laid out for easy identification, and each section is organised for easy reference.

THE green-fingered are not partic-

ularly well catered for by software

houses. Although there are a few,

mostly budget, titles around which

allow you to design and lay out

your garden - and even take a

whizz through the finished plans or

view the results in different seasons

that's about all.

bulbs and annuals.

The Plant Searcher option lets you choose trees by size and roses

keen gardeners as well as a good introduction for those who do not know their wheelbarrow from their elbow. Should you encounter problems tracking down a copy. call MIP on 0345 697008. Our latest competition, Cyberspace Thirty-One, has reaped its own golden harvest of entries. You were asked to

shrubs in July to camellia

shaping in February, and the

ABC Plant Index is a compre-

Studios. "There is no doubt that Red Alert is one of the great games, so I expected much more from Counterstrike," he wrote, "The upgrade has 15 new missions and new military units. But the new

review a game of your choice and

Nuneaton it was the Red Alert add-

on, Counterstrike, from Westwood

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3407: Casting Out Nines by Oyler

THE FOLLOWING statements about the numbers 1 to 45 are also true of their respective lights. Solvers must note that the digit sums referred to have been Digit sum of 13 = digit sum of 22. reduced to a single digit. No number starts with

Only 1, 4, 10, 17, 27 and 40 are perfect squares.

Only I, 8 and 30 are perfect cubes.

Only 1 and 17 are perfect fourth powers.

Only 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 25, 32, 34, 41 and 45 are prime numbers.

Only 11, 22, 33 and 44 are palindromes.

2<3<4<7<15<35<37<45

5<41<42.

7<34<38<44

Digit sum of 6 = digit sum of 24 = 6.

Digit sum of 7 = digit sum of 34 = 7

Digit sum of 10 = 1.

Digit sum of 11 = digit sum of 20.

14<22<25. 15<32.

Digit sum of 15 is even.

16 * 5 + 5 + 5.

21<26<31.

24 is a multiple of 12.

27 - 1 + 26.

28 = 5 + 23.

35 = 16 + 18.

31 = 7 + 7 + 7 + 7.

36 = 12 + 12 + 12. Digit sum of 36 = digit sum of 45.

43 = 6 + 7 + 28.

STATISTICS relating to 1996 crosswords, including personal record, are now available to senders of an SAE (from overseas, stamp exempt), at least 220mm x 110mm, to J.E. Green, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Herts AL3 6HE. It would be helpful if applications could be kept separate from current puzzle submissions.

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Solution to No 3404 Memorable Occasion by Monk

Peripheral squares: "ALEXANDER SOLZHE-NITSYN, ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH" (title), commencing at first square of 35 across; spelling in ODQ4

Extra letters: Also starting with 35 across, spell out "SHADED SQUARES SUGGEST HOW FOURTEEN SQUARES MUST BE FILLED"

Shaded squares: Spell out "RED LETTER DAY" (title). There were 14 squares in clued lights where a compound "RED" LETTER ie. a Russian alphabet character had to be used.

The winner is: R. Noskwith of Sandiacre, Noninghamshire. The five runners-up are: Joan Floyd of Saint-Amand-Montrand. France; A&M Hodges of Bolton, Lancashire: Nick Brown of Belfast; M. Wilson and C.Taggart of Cardiff; Derrick Knight of Newark, Nottinghamshire.

13 15 21 24 25 26 28 33 30 32 34 35 37 36 40 41 42 43

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3407 in association with Waterstone's

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3407, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertford-shire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, May 8.



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OMIOA

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The Annual Property



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Return of the born again biker Page 3



Putting the MG's history back on the map Page 5



SATURDAY APRIL 26 1997

Is it written in stone that Formula One is for men only? Helen Mound reports on research into the question



Karting champion Charis Kaps, right, is determined to persevere with her racing career, but in the 46-year history of the world drivers' championship only a handful of women have competed

Women in the outside lane

steeped in machismo than motor racing, and Formula One is the pinnacle of this male-dominated arena. Every winner is a man's man and the idea of a woman world champion seems unthinkable. But why? For karting champion Charis Kaps, 12, who might just be the girl to change all that, the answer is vital.

In the 40-year history of the world drivers' championship only a handful of women have competed and only two have ever completed races. Their collective success amounts to just one half of a point.

Now the RAC Motorsport Association has commissioned Judy Eaton, a psychology lecturer at Coventry University. to find out why there is such a low level of female participa-

tion in motorsport. "Only 2 per cent of competitive motorsport licence holders in Britain are women." says Dr Eaton. "The RAC wants to find out why this is and encourage more women into

ANG THE SAME LINES AS OUR BIG ESTATES

Eaton's research will examine the social and psychological barriers faced by women in motor racing. She recently completed preliminary interviews with females aged 12 to 40, who either have raced or are currently competing.

International rally driving champion. Louise Aitken-Walker, who retired from rallying to look after her children four years ago, is well aware of the barriers. Despite her own success, she doubts there will be a successful British female Formula One driver in her lifetime. She is probably right unless women can overcome some of the problems already revealed by

Dr Eaton's research. Murray Walker, veteran grand prix commentator, agrees with Aitken-Walker's rather gloomy view: "Women tend not to be strong enough

or aggressive enough." Gavin Kelsey, operations director of the Jim Russell Racing School, where about 20 per cent of pupils are women. is a bit more optimistic: 1 hope so. But what's missing is Over the next 18 months Dr a good role model to encour-

age them to compete." But Matt Francy, deputy editor of Autosport says: "The odds are stacked against them because there are so few competing." And even Nicola Foulston. chief executive of Brands Hatch, a woman who has succeeded in the administra-

Maria-Teresa

and Lella

many determined enough." Forty per cent of youngsters aged eight to 12 in karting the first step into a motor racing career - are girls. But as they get older and the sport gets more professional, the number of women competing reduces dramatically. tive side of this male-dominat-

being turned off motor racing either by the physical changes they experience or peer pres-sure and a need to fit in with other teenagers," claims Dr Eaton. She feels the key to increasing the number of women who remain in racing

male competitors insist they're through their teens is to make

girls at an early age.

Among the older age group,

isn't that women give up but that they feel forced out. Many talk of being pushed

off the track, receiving exces-

sive scrutineering because

You can count them on one hand

THE ONLY British female contender in Formula One was Divina Galica. She emered the 1976 British Grand Prix and the Argentinian and Brazilian events in 1978, but failed to qualify in any, In 1975, Lella Lombardi became the only woman to score in the Formula One drivers' championship. She was competing in the Spanish Grand Prix which

was stopped, automatically granting entrants a half point.
The first woman to contest a World Chamionship Grand
Prix was the Italian Maria-Teresa de Filippis, who entered five
races in 1958-59, qualified for three and finished one, the 1958 Belgian Grand Prix in 10th place in a Maserati 250F. In 1980 Desire Wilson from South Africa attempted to drive in the British Grand Prix but failed to qualify. And the most recent woman to compete in Formula One was Giovanna Amati who in 1992 entered the South African, Mexican and Brazilian grands prix in a Brabham but failed to qualify for any of them.

motorsport more acceptable to cheating, or facing verbal abuse." The majority also complain of being discouraged Dr Eaton found the problem by the lack of finances.

Aitken-Walker agrees that money is a major factor: "It's very difficult for women to be taken seriously in any form of motorsport. They need to show real determination to convince the male managers they're not wasting money." The next step in the research

will be to ascertain what attracts certain girls to motor racing in the first place and how that motivation can be

maintained. One definite feeling is that women don't want girl-only events. Whether it's possible for them to compete at the same level as men all the way through to Formula One has yet to be proved, but that's what the women want."

There are currently a handful of female co-drivers in World Championship Rallying, and in the early 1980s Michele Mouton of France became extremely successful at world level, beating many respected male drivers, but she remains an exception.

Charis's career hits the brakes

haris Kaps, from Darlington, has been racing since she was eight and has shown real promise. Now, at 12, her racing career is in jeopardy.

She can continue to race in the eight to 12 group until the end of the year, but already she's being slowed down because she is 10 kilos over the recommended weight - and growing.

Next year she will join the 12 to 16-year-old group where, although she will benefit from being lighter than the older competitors, she will be disadvantaged by sheer lack of strength. This is the time when Dr Eaton believes the majority of girls give up.

n addition to the physical changes a Lyoung girl experiences as she starts her teens, Charis's friends could put her off her sport or boyfriends could be distracting or destructively jealous. And by the time she reaches 15 or 16, she will need a greater level of strength and stamina than the average teenage girl to compete against the boys.

Her father, Ed Kaps, insists she has got what i takes to stick it out, but is concerned how she will cope competing against 6-year-old boys: "She's a strong girl but she's going to have to work hard to beat some of the older boys."

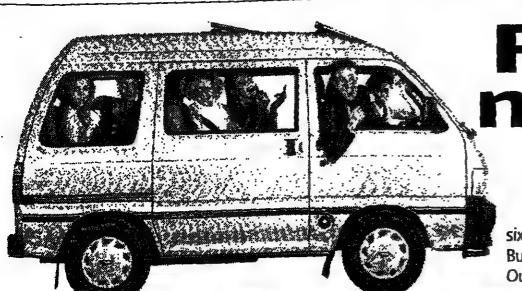
But Charis is determined to persevere. Her impressive exercise routine benefits from her membership of the Sea Scouts and playing for her school's football and swimming teams. It's no surprise that she was voted "Sportswoman of the Year" by her school.

The research has included interviewing parents or partners of female competitors to gauge the support they receive. Dr Eaton points to the support World Formula One Champion Nigel Mansell received from his family as a possible element to success. "He sold his house to help finance his racing career, he will have needed his family behind him to achieve that. Perhaps if more women had friends and family that believed in their abilities as passionately they would stay

in the sport."

Dr Eaton, who has raced herself and runs her own racing kart, accepts that most sports have gender role expectations - "Boys play football, girls play hockey" - but she hopes her research will reveal ways to make motorsport more attractive to women. Perhaps then Britain will see its first champion female Formula One driver.

To help compare women's role in motorsport, Coventry University now wants to interview aspiring male racing drivers aged 12-40. Please call 01203 838739.



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The RAC, primarily an organisation for motorists, is sounding far more radical on the subject of transport than any of the parties seeking our votes

Now it's the Royal All-transport Club

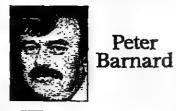
ew Labour, new RAC. New logo, new colour for breakdown vans. even a new bicycle on the market. Whatever is going on at the Royal Automobile Club, that defender of the right to drive, campaigner for better roads, safer roads, more roads? Something

good as it happens.

There has been a certain amount of spluttering from the Luddites since the RAC announcement that it was updating its image and shifting the emphasis of its work to encourage a broader approach to transport. The Association of British Motorists, for one, is upset, but they would be, wouldn't they?

As a member of the RAC, I must declare an interest and I am sure from speaking to its members that the AA is an excellent organis-ation: this is a market where all of

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



us want to see healthy competition. The RAC move is a bold one and deserves to be encouraged.

Some details of the RAC changes

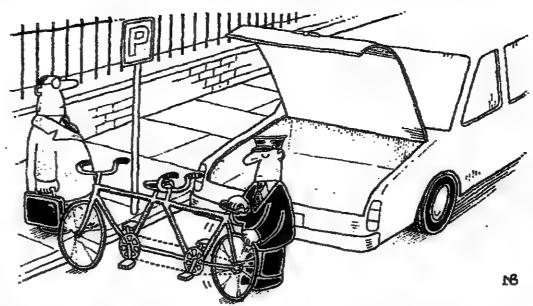
show real imagination, others are long overdue. In the latter category comes the £25 discount for members who do not use the breakdown

service in a given year, effectively a no-claims bonus. This should have been introduced years ago. Chief executive Neil Johnson

wants to give the values of the RAC, established 100 years ago. "a 21st-century look. Our members are not just motorists. They also cycle, walk and use public trans-port.* Well yes, but as General Alexander Haig was fond of saying. I would have to caveat that. Certainly the launch of the

RAC's all-purpose bicycle, de-signed to be folded up and stowed in the boot so that drivers have two forms of transport to get where they are going, is an innovative idea — though there are plenty of other fold-up bikes around. But my mention of New Labour

was not merely a tenuous linking mechanism. If there is a change of



sign from the Labour manifesto of any radical change in transport policy. Indeed, there is an irony in the fact that the RAC, primarily an organisation for motorists, is sounding far more radical on the subject of transport than any of the

parties seeking our votes. What I do find encouraging is that we now have a motoring

lobby which is, presumably, pre-pared to tread the polished stone floors of Whitehall on behalf of all travellers, including drivers but not excluding cyclists, walkers, bus

and train passengers.

There is also the intriguing prospect of the militant bicycle obby, whose "reclaim the roads" fic chaos in recent times, finding itself outflanked by an organisation that has represented every-

thing they oppose. I note that the RAC is now soliciting non-motoring members. Obviously this includes cyclists, who may well decide that their interests are better served by the experienced lobbyists of the RAC

than by the diverse organisations that now represent them. Cyclists and drivers united in common. cause? The mind boggles.

SATURDAY APRIL

Carl Fogarty on his District their

After his battle adain.

Whitham is back in

saddle. John Naish

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I do not take the cynical view that the RAC's conversion to a wider cause is simply a drive for more members. But it knows as well as the rest of us that something has to happen at the centre of power before the commonality of interest between all transport insers clicits a real change in the quality of travel.

The activities of the IRA have shown just how easily gridlock can be caused, but such aberrations can disguise the fact that the absence of an integrated transport policy will cause near-permanent gridlock within a decade. There will come a time, unless things change, when we shall do the IRA's dirty work for them.

DRIVERS who need spectacles should watch out if they are heading for Devon and Cornwall on holiday where police are making random checks on eyesighted using the usual numberplate at 202 metres test. I hear they are not ansused, or swayed, by the people with spectacles in the glove compartment who are not actually wearing them.

A crook to lock out car thieves

When a security

firm wanted

expert advice they

advertised for

a criminal, says

Eve-Ann Prentice

ompetition for the car crime consultancy job was stiff but the applicant's credentials were perfect. Vegetarian, a non-smoker and teetotal, the man from the North-East had 25 years' experience — as a car thief.

This week the man, who wants to remain anonymous. began work as crime fighter consultant to the car security company. Toad Innovations. He is also trying to establish his own consultancy business, having persuaded the police and his new employers that he "retired" from his life of crime

three years ago. The road to thieving began when the man, whom we shall call Mr Toad, was just 12 years old, "I didn't attend school very often, but sometimes illegally drove myself there," he said last week. His education in what became his chosen field for the next quarter of a century was prison.

"My first prison sentence was in 1982 and it secured my criminal career. So many connections made, so many ideas, prison is the school for crime." he says. "I was the victim of a broken home and received little or no parental guidance, soon drifting into crime and a first conviction at

espite his quarter of a century as a car thief, during which crime was his main source of income. Mr Toad received just two jail sentences, one for 12 months and the second for nine months. He was never caught red-handed.

He says that he can strip a car to the bone in less than four hours and claims to be able to drive any vehicle from motorcycles to boats, cars, agricultural machinery and juggernauts. Toad Innovations, based in

Cambridge, advertised for a reformed, convicted ex-car thief in February and received dozens of replies from across the country, including applications for the consultancy job from two people who are still in prison.

"We are not seeking hi-texh information as much as psychological insight into the mind of the car criminal," said Kevin Gray, Toad's Chief Executive. The company pro-



Anonymous "Mr Toad" can strip a car to the bone in less than four hours and claims to be able to drive anything from motorcycles to juggernauts

duces a range of anti-rheft devices including an antismash window film, a miniature in-car camera and a nontoxic smoke which fills cars after they are broken into.

Toad's new consultant says he is a one key reason he so rarely caught during his criminal career. "Not many people knew what I was doing. I have a few don't yet know about my new job." he says. "I am not a person who mixes

The reformed criminal currently owns a Range Rover, "but I know

it will never be stolen", he adds. "The big thing is where the security systems are installed, not necessarily what they are. Toad has some good stuff, though. I was quite

impressed." Is he repentant now about the people from whom he stole in the past? "There are things I

would never do and I think house burglars are the lowest of the low." he says. "I have on occasion returned property I have taken. If something was

obviously personal it was not unknown for me to to stick it in a bin bag and throw it 'I've been over a person's garden wall the to crime next time I hapseminars pened to passing. The new consulorganised

tant is also scathing about the by the prison system. The short sharp police and shock is not short enough," he says. they were For the first two days you are inside useless' it is such a shock you vow that, if you ever get out, you will never do anything wrong

again and you mean it. But after the third day you start to fit in and people who are inside for insurance oflences or having no tax disc become part of the criminal fraternity and realise that that can be their life from then on. It doesn't take Einstein to understand what prison does

The reformed thief believes he can be especially helpful to Toad innovations because he

BARBARA CARTLAND ONCE

PACED AN MG

KT BROOKLANDS ..

AUTOFAX by Payld Long and Les Evans

TOAD'S TIPS

• Fit an alarm or immobiliser.

Park in a well-lit place at night. Keep car keys well hidden at home. Thieves are increasingly entering homes to obtain keys.

Try to park in the centre of car parks. Park near active places such as shopfronts and

 Remove car keys at petrol stations -where 20,000 car thefts a year occur. · Be aware that if thieves see you park outside a cinema oc station they know you are likely to be gone

for some hours.

understands the mechanics of cars — and because he understands the criminal mind. "I have been to one or two crime seminars organised by the police and they were useless. The police just don't have the same way of thinking."

They may not have the same

SPIRED BY THE 41-FATED BRABAZON AIRLINER



A police stinger device to stop stolen vehicles safely

way of thinking, but a reduc-tion in vehicle crime has contributed significantly to an overall fall in the crime figures for the past four years.

According to details published last month, 1.29 million rehicle crimes were reported to police in 1996, a 2.2 per cent fall from the 1.32 million in 1995. Thefts from vehicles were down by 13,600 or 2 per cent and thefts of vehicles were reduced by 15,100 or 3 per cent.

This is thought to be due partly to much more security

BASED ON A FARGROUND DODGEM

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IS THE SHALLEST VEHICLE

TO HOME BOOM DOWN ROUND THE WORLD ... consciousness on the part of both motorists and manufacturers. Alarms and immobilisers have become major selling points. Stepped up police campaigns against car crime also seem to be having a deterrent effect with some forces investing in technology such as the "stinger" device imported from the United States, which can be deployed to stop a stolen car without the danger of a police chase. For information on Toud Innovation's products call

01223 214555



AA GRIDEOCK GUIDE

A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular Road) over the Les Valley viaduct. A11 Leytonstone. Major roadworks at the Green Man roundabout (A12, A114). Expect delays on all approaches. A306 Hummersmith Bridge, Closed both ways to general traffic for structural works. Expect congestion on both sides of the river. A5 Kilburn High Road. Reduced to one lane both ways, with no right turn into Belsize Road. A3 Kingston bypass. Northbound lane closure etween Shannon Come (A298) and Coombe Lane

function (A238) for work on Carters Bridge. A205 Wandsworth.
Roadworks on Upper
Richmond Road between
Deylesford Avenue and West HML Various restrictions between 9,30em and 3,30pm. B317 West Kensington. North End Raod closed Northbound from Edith

Road to the A4, with one-way traffic southbound. Expect heavy congestion. SOUTH-EAST A413 Wendover bypass Buckinghamshire. Construction work for new bypass. Restrictions on local roads and Eliesborough

M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East). A130 Sandon, Essex. Roadworks on Southend Road at the Gingerbread Hall bridge, with width restrictions. A41 Watford, Hertfordshire. Lane closed eastbound on North Western Avenue from the Hunton Bridge roundabout to the Leavesden Green

M20 Kent, Long-term roadworks at junction 4 (West Malling). Various lane closures on the slip road. M25 Surrey. Various restrictions and lane closures

and the A3. SOUTH-WEST M5 Bristol, Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge with A30 near Penzance, water main work at Crowlas. Long delays throughout the day. A31 near Ferndown Dorset. Roadworks at Carriord Bottom, with lane closures on roundabout M5 Gloucestershire, Major roadworks with only one lane open at the roundabout junction with the A419. Expect peak-time delays joining or seating the M5.

lights for roadworks on London Road at the Holy Apostles Junction. A38 Bridgwater. Gas main work on Bristol Road.

 MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGUA A1 Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. Reduced to one lane northbound during meintenance work at Alconoury Hills. As Lockington, Leicestershire. Temporary lights between M1 J24 and Sawley Island during construction of the Derby. Southern bypass.
A1084 Acie Way bridge,
Norfolk. Maintenance work in
in place at the bridge. A500 Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Contratiow on the D road, with only one the D road, with only one iane open each way between Talke (A34) and Longport (A527 Porthill).
A50 Stoke-on-Trent, Major construction work at Meir.
Long peak-time delays.
M6 West Midlands, Silp road from Salford Circus to the M5 north classed.

● NORTH A627 Bardsley, Greater Manchester, Roedworks on Ashton Road at junction A572 Swinton, Greater closed for sewer work. ackley, Greater Manchester. Construction work on the M66 extension at the junction of Rochdele Road, Manchester New Road and Victoria Avenue. M1 West Yorkshire, Major roadworks continue around the Leeds iunction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621, and

Dewsbury Road. O WALES A483 Fabian Way, Swansea. Lane closures both ways near the Dock entrance on main dual carriageway into Swanses from the M4. A4067 Mumbles Road. Swansea. Major roadworks between Sketty Lane and the rugby ground. A472 Pontypool, Torlaen. Contraffow between Pontymoile and the Heron

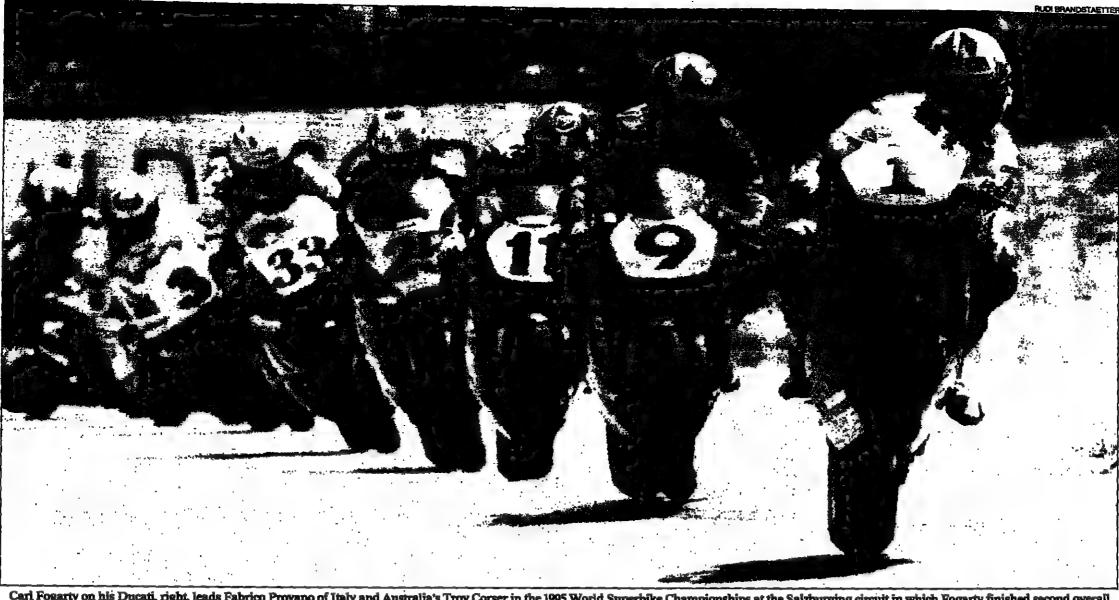
SCOTLAND Aberdeen, Queen Elizabeth Bridge closed southbound for roadworks. Signoostad diversions via Victoria Bridge and Menzies Ro A737 near Beith, North Ayrshire. Temporary lights between the Roadha roundabout and Beith. A90 between Dundee and Perth. Reduced to one lane both ways between Inchyra and Kinfauns, Expect delays. M8 Rentrewshire. One lane both ways at junction 30 (Erskine Spur, M898).

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Gloucestershire. Temporary MAJOR ROADWORKS ▲ Jams ikely Other delay:

"Where can I sell something fast?"

Yorkshireman's champion return



Carl Fogarty on his Ducati, right, leads Fabrico Provano of Italy and Australia's Troy Corser in the 1995 World Superbike Championships at the Salzburging circuit in which Fogarty finished second overall

After his battle against cancer, James Whitham is back in the superbike saddle. John Naish talked to him

s the contenders line up on the grid at Donington next Lweekend for the Britrounds of the World Superbike Championship, one rider will have special reason to be glad of the chance to race. James Whitham, a 30-yearold Yorkshiremun and bero of putting his life's most crucial win behind him — his battle with cancer. Just two years ago, his championship-winning career was abruptly halted by a diagnosis of Hodgkin's

GUIDE

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> disease. But now he is back, contesting the World Superbike Championship, a race series rapidly growing in popularity with British racegoers because the bikes used are based on the muchines that many fans ride

> The racing roadbikes make the competition thrillingly close too, which is why Whitham's thoughts will not be on illness, but on turning his season round after a difficult start by taking full advantage

of this, his local track. The native of Halifax had begun to stamp his mark on motorcycle racing, including winning five British championships, when at the end of 1994 he realised he had lost a lot of weight. Over the next

weaker, until he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer.

"I had to stop because of the chemotherapy, which made my hair fall out. and cocked my eyesight up." finished three weeks before Christmas, and I was back to messed up one season." In a remarkable comeback,

he came a painfully close second in the British Superbike championship and was voted man of the year by readers of Motorcycle News. Ask Whitham about his

iliness now and he says: "Oh, I'm forgetting about it," though he still has to go for regular hospital check-ups. People around Whitham say he lives to the full, with a wide range of interests that includes drumming in his own rock

band. So why go back to the

sport after such a close brush with mortality? "Racing is my life; I started after I left school at 16." he says. "One thing the Hodgkin's brought home to me was was that I had spent years doing a dangerous sport and never sustained any major injuries - and then was

nearly finished off by some-thing out of the blue." But his attempt on the World Superbike champion-



well so far. After two meetings,

in Australia and Italy, he is

crashing twice.

Whitham dons his leathers for the first time since his illness to repeat performances such as those against Mike Hale, centre, and drum up excitement as he does with his rock hand ship this year has not gone partners get on well together

trailing in the points after beat him next weekend." Donington, however, is ogarty, however, will have other ideas. The where he aims to turn his season's fortunes. "It's my local track and I am keen to who has twice won the put on a good show," he says World Superbike Championand that means setting his ship, is currently 14 points sights on friend and fellow behind series leader John Yorkshireman, Carl Fogarty. "Carl and I progressed Kocinski. Fogarty also regards Donington as his local track, and hopes it will give him the through racing together, we live 45 minutes apart, our opportunity to catch up.

Indeed, there is no shortage of British riders for the and we hang out together on Donington crowd to cheer on the tracks -- but I would like to next weekend; among the others joining Whitham and Fogarty are reigning British Superbike champion Niali Mackenzie riding a Yamaha. his team-mate and young ris-

> Neil Hodgson. And the British involvement does not stop there. Just as in Grand Prix motor racing,

ing star, Chris Walker, ten-

times Isle of Man TT-winner

Steve Hislop, and Lancastrian

where Britain is a centre of excellence, this country is a leading player in motorcycle race-building. Both Whit-ham's Suzuki team and Castrol Honda are British-run. The contract for Suzuki's superbike effort was won by

Hertford-based Harris Perfor-

turned unwieldy 1970s Japa-

mance against stiff competition from Japan and America. Harris have for decades been expert chassis-builders, first finding fame for creating sate-of-the-art frames that

nese superbikes into true

Now they are still at it, but are dedicating their skills to perfecting the already fine handling of Suzuki's roadgoing GSXR750. It's a tough battle, says team spokesman Paul Fowler: This is our second year, and getting it right in racing takes time. We are up against teams that have been contesting the championship for a lot longer, but at the last round, at Misano our bike was the fastest at 174mph."



Vaughan Freeman finds heads turning as he tries out the fifth generation Corvette

Tnited States soldiers stationed in Britain in the 1940s and early 1950s loved the nippy "limey" sportsters such as the MG, the Triumph TR2. Austin Healey 100 and the Jaguar XK120, which out-performed and out-sexed anything back home.

Returning GIs clamoured for a car that offered similar performance and driving joy. The response came 44 years ago when Chevrolet unveiled its first Corvette. Today Chevrolet, part of the General Motors/Vauxhall empire, is launching its fifth generation Corvette, built for the first time to meet European legislative and safety requirements, though for the

UK it will still be left-hand drive. What Chevrolet must do is identify the British customer for a car that retains all the blueberry pie American character so important to the legend. GM Europe marketing director Susan Docherty says: "For over 40 years the Corvette has been the embodiment of the American sports car and a dream car if there

ever was one. The Corvette is targeted at a serious sports enthusiast who is seeking a unique product providing him with image and styling but, more importantly, with performance."

The Corvette, she says, is aimed at a different customer from somebody who might buy a new BMW Z3, Porsche Boxster or Mercedes SLK. Owners are likely to be male, professional, aged 40 to 50, already own more than one car and who want a "high-performance sports car in the best American tradition".

What they will get is a car with head-swivelling looks, a hugely powerful engine and a glass-fibre body giving it a weight of just 1,470kg (Chevrolet's obsession with saving weight even sees balsa wood inserts in the floor where it works

as a sound deadener). Powered by the latest, allaluminium incarnation of the Corvette's 5.7-litre small block V8, matched to a four-speed automatic gearbox (a six-speed manual arrives next year), the car flies to



Chevrolet Corvette: there will be no shortage of customers whwen the first 30 go on sale in Britain

seconds and a top speed of 175mph. But with the right foot off the accelerator it will burble along at around 30mph at 1,000rpm, and at a languid 2,000rpm will cruise at motorway speeds.

Massive disc brakes, anti-lock braking, traction control, wide magnesium wheels and variable sports/performance/touring sus-pension senings ensure the Corvette stays firmly on the road and stops instantly when required.

Inside, there is room for even the tallest driver and passenger. Unusually in a genuine high-performance sports car, there is also plenty of room in the back for bags and cases, and the pop-off roof is easy to remove and replace.

60mph from a standstill in five transmission mounted on the rear axle, weight is distributed 50:50 fore and aft which, together with an exceptionally stiff chassis, makes the car very well balanced, although on rough or poorly surfaced roads, the penalty is paid with rattling teeth and a tendency for the front wheels to skip fractionally

through fast corners. The Corvette features run-flat tyres that allow it to travel 200 miles on a puncture, and tyre pressure transmitters linked to the dashboard display warn of a flat or

Intially only 30 Corvettes will be available in Britain when sales start in late summer with 250 to Europe in total, so that whatever the price tag turns out to be, it is With the engine at the front, and certain to sell out.

Chevrolet Corvette Body: Two-door, two-seat with removable hard top. Engine: 5.7-litre V8 producing 345bhp at 5,600rpm driving rear wheels through four-speed automatic gearbox. Performance: 0-60mph in 5 seconds, top speed 175mph. Economy: 17mpg in town, 25mpg touring. Equipment: Traction control, power steering, antilock braking, tyre pressure sensors, electric windows and seat controls. Price: £35,000-£45,000.

On sale late summer.

Born in the USA: five generations of an all-American legend NAMED for a small, fast naval escort warship, the first Corvette was launched in 1953 with its now trademark but then revolutionary glass-fibre body, and a 3.8-litre six

cylinder 150bhp engine.
Though stylish, the Corvette drew complaints about its lack of performance, and two years later a V8 engine, in 4.3-litre, 1950hp guise, arrived to give it muscle. The classic 1957 Corvette with fuel injection was followed in 1958 with another restyle featuring double

headlights, shark's mouth grille and lashings of chrome. In 1963 came the legendary Sting Ray with its split rear window, retractable headlights and innovative indepen-

dent rear suspension. It also fea-

tured a 360bhp V8 that made the

Sting Ray Corvette the fastest

accelerating sports car in the world at the time. The "Coke bottle", with its pinched waist and flared wings, was another design icon as the third generation Corvette in 1968.

During the 1960s and 1970s cheap petrol saw the car's engines swell, peaking with a monstrous 7.4 litre unit. The world energy crisis saw the engine scale down, at least in US terms, to the more modest 5.7 litres of today, and in 1983 came the fourth generation Corvette, only now being superseded by the latest model.

In 1990 came what many consider the definitive collector's Corvette, the ZR-1 incarnation, with a totally redesigned 32-valve 5.7 litre V8 with 375bhp and a top speed of almost 190mph. In 1992 Chevrolet built its millionth Corvette.

SUPERFACTS

THE rapid growth in Superbike racing's popularity in Britain mirrors that of the **British Touring Car** Championship. Fans love to watch muchines like the ones they own fighting it out on the track. MAKERS have

also beome increasingly enamoured because it is proving a great way of selling their products. WHILE fans get to

watch machines like the Voivo S40s -- being supported by CAR 97 in the BTCC series bikers get to see top sportsbikes such as the Ducati 916, Suzuki GSXR750 and Honda RC45 taken to

NOT that they are completely standard: teams lighten and strengthen the engines. brace frames and swap suspensions for the latest race gear. HONDA says it

will spend £5-6 million on this year's World Superbike Championship, while Team Suzuki says: Whatever it cost the company will spend. If we asked for ten

more engines, at £50,000 each, Suzuki would send them."



COMPETITION

PAIRS of tickets for next Sunday's race will go to the first five readers who write to: Times Competition, Donington Park, Derby. DE74 2RP, by Wednesday, identifying which county the track is in. (It's a trick question.)

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The Beer family has probably forgotten more than most MG dealers will ever know'

Eve-Ann Prentice

visits a village

UL 26 1997

garage that is the centre of a classic

marque's history from start to finish

he fading photograph on the wall of Sydney Beer's family garage shows former world champion Phil Hill at the steering wheel of Beer's singleeater MG K3 at Donington Park in 1980 while a younger, lither Beer stands gesticulating alongside.

"I was quicker than him in those days," the now 79-yearold says wryly.

Sydney and his son, Malcolm. own what appears at first sight to be a small picturesque garage in the chocolate-box village of Houghton, near St ives, Cambridgeshire which carries out MoTs and happens to have one or two MGs scattered about the forecourt.

In fact, they are custodians of probably the most comprehensive private collection of MG cars and memorabilia in Britain, if not the world. And now they plan to open an MG museum at the former RAF base at nearby Alconbury, complete with a workshop using original machinery, facilities for teaching the young about driving, seminars and films from MG's archives.

The enterprise even has the oblique backing of John Major, vice-president of Peterborough Motor Club which supports the museum scheme. The MG Car Club is also enthusiastic about the plan, which is now waiting for the ocal authority to act.

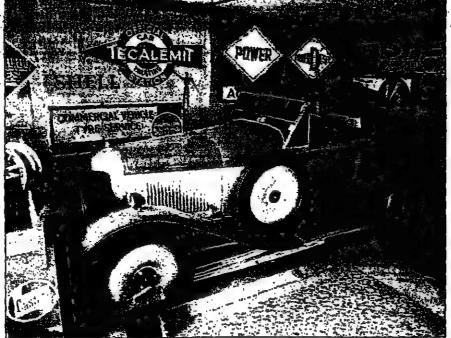
ydney Beer wants to than Hill: That was to be expected, it was my car. I won about 150 races in my time and I suppose I got to about 130mph, but Hill was just doing a comparison check for an American magazine, not racing flat out."

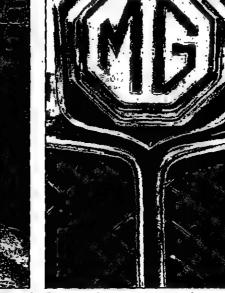
The Beers' garage and the house behind it are crammed with laurels and cups to remind them of their racing victories (at 49, Malcolm al-ready has twice as many wins under his belt as his father). But the deeper you go into the recesses of the house, the more Sydney's links with the MG become apparent. For Sydney was a close friend and confidant of John Thornley, the company's managing director through its boom years, and now Sydney owns Thornley's old desk, menculously handwritten ledgers and office furniture dating from the era of Cecil Kimber, MG's founder, along with a multitude of other equipment and original machinery which he wants to

put in the museum. The MG Motor Car Muse-um would include the Beer family's collection of 60 or so cars, with models ranging from the beginnings at Oxford to the closure at Abingdon in 1980. "When the factory was closed we bought a lot of the stuff," says Sydney. All the early types of racing car are



Sydney Beer, left, and Malcolm with part of their unique MG collection, including a 1930 18/80 MK2, left, the 1961 Jacobs Midget Sydney used to race and the MGB GT V8 in which Malcolm competes







A glorious past in a Cambridgeshire garage: from left, a 1925 Bullnose 14/28, the famous six-sided logo, and some of the Beers' victory laurels, which Malcolm's daughter Heather may one day add to

represented and engines from the earliest to the O series. The only crash-tested MG to escape the crusher has also found sanctuary with the

Most of the collection is in storage, but two venerable examples are given house room at the garage: a 1925 14/28 Bullnose, which has been in the family for 25 years, and a 1929 18/80 Mark II. Out on the forecourt is Malcolm's white 1974 MGB GT V8 which

he races, and a 1956 MGB known as Old Faithful which has won more international and national events than any other MGB.

One of the main aims of the museum, which would be operated by a trust established by the Beer family and Huntingdonshire District Council, is to teach the young. The council says it is keen to see the museum established, but cannot put a timescale to an opening because it has not yet

decided how the former RAF site at Alconbury will be developed as a whole. There is very strong support from the district council," says Tony Davies, the council's head of

Sydney Beer is quietly scathing about modern racing and hopes the museum will transmit some of what he sees as his generation's more affectionate attitude towards the sport to today's teenagers. He plans to hold courses to teach the young "roadcraft" and "enable young people to develop interests around motor cars, perhaps reducing the incidence of joy-riding and other offences.

it's the person with the most bullshit and bounce, the idiots with tons of money who make it to the top in motor racing nowadays," he says with a wink. "I think Damon Hill's a damned good chap,

A workshop using old machinery will be set up at the museum, to undertake oldfashioned techniques such as white metalling and line

boring. The Beer family has probably forgotten more than most MG dealers will ever know in a lifetime," said one customer visiting the garage for an MoT

for an aged Jaguar. Both father and son showed a talent for the extraordinary from the earliest days of their

driving careers. Sydney passed his test just nine days and he won the lap record in a Q Type MG." after the test was first intro-duced in 1935, while Malcolm passed on his seventeenth birthday. Malcolm's preco-

cious aptitude for winning came just two days later. "After Malcolm passed his test on the Friday, we went to get him a racing licence from the RAC in Belgrave Square," says Sydney. "We entered him for a historic race meeting at

Brands Hatch on the Sunday

Now Malcolm's children, Adrian, 14, and Heather, nearly 15, have had their first taste of go-karting and a horse-riding. Heather has al-ready shown a taste for

tradition. Sydney gazes proudly again at the picture of himself with Hill: "He tried lots of cars that day, but he liked mine best of all."

following in the family racing

MG FACTS

 EIGHTY per cent of postwar MGs were AN all-independent.
 suspension MGB was built in 1935. The 750cc single-seater R Type had backbone chassis and

torsion bars. After initial

successes, Herbert Austin and William Morris stopped all racing in • A PROTOTYPE replacement for the MGB and the Midget, the

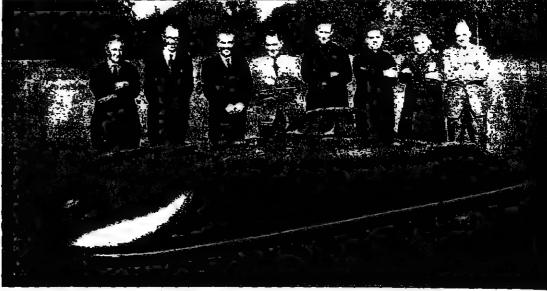
EX234, was built in the 1960s but all money in British Leyland went into the Triumph TR7. ◆ IN 1966 an MGB won the 24-hour Nurbur-

gring event overall. PHIL HILL was the fastest man in an MG at 254mph. MORE MGs Ware exported to America than

Triumphs and Jaguars combined. ● IN 1931 the MG was the first 750cc car to exceed 100mph. In 1950 a 350cc MG topped 120mph.



Expert advice: Sydney Beer with American racing ace Phil Hill in a MG K3 at Donington Park in 1980



The design team in 1956 with the MG EX179, part of the Beers' photographic record of the marque





Sydney and Malcolm with Adrian Beer in a R type MG and Sydney's MGB GTV8 at Silverstone in 1994

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cording to the latest British Insurance Premium Index from the AA. The survey confirms the upward trend in premiums that has been apparent since the initial impact of "direct" insurers, which forced all-round reductions, had worn off. The rise has been compounded by the increase in Insurance Premium Tax. The average comprehensive premium at £381.20 is up 3.9 per cent over the quarter while the aver-

age non-comprehensive — fre-

quently taken by less

experienced drivers — is

£385.36, up 3.5 per cent.

Cross-country hero and city slicker

Alan Copps takes the Jeep Laredo to town

ROAD TEST

hen Chrysler introduced the Grand Cherokee, the upmarket version of the car that has done so much to re-establish the company's presence in Britain. just over a year ago, I had the chance to test it off the road.

The leather, wood, cruise control and air-conditioning seemed irrelevant. It was just immense fun to take this big four-wheel-drive beast over a specially-constructed course on the edge of Snowdonia. Negotiating a rock-strewn stream bed, ploughing door-handle deep along a muddy ditch or charging up a loose-surfaced one-in-four slope with a blind hump and small lake over the top seemed the natural thing to do in a vehicle bearing the name "Jeep".

I was impressed with the ease and agility with which the large vehicle overcame all these obstacles even in my comparitively inexperienced hands. I was also impressed by the price; at just under £30,000 it was more than £5,000 cheaper than the cheapest Range Rover - a real challenge to that British champion.

But the fact is that Grand Cherokee and Range Rover alike, very few of these big off-roaders ever get near a muddy field. So when Chrysler introduced the latest version, the Laredo, which knocks a further £3,000 off that price, I decided to use it like most owners in a way that I've always rather disapproved of: I took





Jeep Laredo: the urban appeal may really be a childish instinct

it on the school (or rather the playgroup) run.

If you've ever wondered why so many otherwise rational parents as likely to rage about congestion from any other source as the rest of us

 choose to clog up residential suburbs by ferrying their offspring in vehicles more suited to crossing moorland, the answer is simple. It's not them who do the choosing, it's the children. Once a child has experienced the joys of being perched up in the seats of a 4WD, gazing over the surrounding traffic like a junior member of the nobility surveying a

country estate, it's difficult to get them back into an ordinary car. There is, of course, an obvious advantage to the driver in being able to see over the traffic, but a lot of the urban appeal of these vehicles may lie in the same childish instinct.

That said, this vehicle has a lot more than mere height going for it. Air-conditioning and cruise control are still standard, as are power steering anti-lock brakes, twin airbags and remote central locking. although I didn't like the wood-effect trim, which struck me as being quite

AFTER the four-wheel-drive Ford Galaxy comes the all-wheeldrive Volkswagen Sharan VR6 Syncro. It's not that surprising, since the two vehicles are built in

who don't really require the capacity to traverse the Pennine Way. With seven seats and fourspeed automatic transmission as standard, the company says it will appeal to large families in rural

JEEP LAREDO

Engine: 2.5-litre fourcylinder turbo-diesel with 114bhp at 3,900rpm or 4-litre six-cylinder petrol with 174bhp at 4,600rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual with part-time 4WD or four-speed automatic with full-time 4WD.

Performance: 0-60mph in 13.9 seconds (9.9 petrol). Max speed 97mph (112mph). Economy: Urban 23mpg (13mpg); extra-urban 36 (23.5); combined cycle 29.7 (18.2). Equipment: Power steering, ABS, twin airbags, remote central locking, alarm/immobiliser, airconditioning, electric windows and mirrors, cruise control, integral roof rack. Price: £26,495 on the road.

unnecessary with practical cloth seats. The off-road ruggedness does nothing to hamper town driving and it is remarkably manoeuvrable in

tight parking spaces.
The 2.5-litre diesel version I tried has a five-speed manual gear change and part-time four-wheel-drive, so for town use it behaves as a rear-wheeldrive car, a more economical arrangement than the permanent four-wheeldrive in the 4-litre petrol model.

Last year a Jeep Cherokee with the Italian-made 2.5-litre diesel drove 900 miles from Bologna to London on one tank of fuel, an average of 58.4mpg.

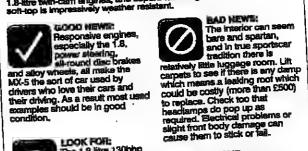


Prices start at £25,172 on-the-road, with a three-year warranty.



Mazda MX-5

Until the recent arrivel of the MGF from Rover, the Mazda MX-5 had things all its own way as a relatively chasp, rear-wheel-drive, throseater sportscar in the Lotus Elan tradition, indeed, Mazda make no bones that the MX-5 is a modern copy of the 60s Lotus classic no bones that the MX-5 features pop-up headlamps, 1.8 and Launched in 1980, the MX-5 features pop-up headlamps, 1.8 and 1.8-litre twin-cam engines, and superb handling. Looks wonderful and soft-top is impressively weather registernt.



the 1.9-litm 130bhp car gives greater performance, while sort of comfort unfread of in more traditional two-door sportscars, including electric windows, power steering, leather trim, airbag, engine immobiliser for security and alloy wheels.

AVOID:
Cars lacking power steering are hard work. The MX-5 is the chiven by enthusiasts who care for their car, so walk away from any car that looks tatty, is not cared for, or which is dotted by untreasted stone chips.

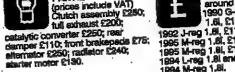
SAFETY: Side-impact bare only introduced as standard from January 1993, and a driver side airbag only arrived in 1994. However anti-lock brakes on 1.81S are a boon, and road handling generally is a plus for

EPLACEMENT

(prices include VAT) Clutch assembly £25 full exhaust £200;

Cover from AA
Insurance (0800
A44777) on a 1994
MK-5 costs 1
55-year-old professional male or
female, with full no claims and
fiving in Winchester, £216 a year
fully comprehensive. A
22-year-old male living in London
with one year no claims bonus,
pays £1,323 fully comprehensive,
and a similar female pays £1,070,

Expect to pay around £8,400 for a 1990 G-registered 1.6i, £10,000 for a 1992 J-reg 1.6i, £11,500 for a 1995 M-reg 1.8i, £13,750 for a 1995 M-reg 1.8i, £13,750 for a 1994 L-reg 1.8i and £14,500 for a 1994 M-reg 1.8i.



OVERALL:

A red-hot April on routs to Summer brings home the alture of open-top sportscar motoring. Best of all, the MX-5 benefits from an excellent soft top that is a dream to lower and raise and which is weather-proof, so should the summer months prove typically British and wet, the motoring fun need not stop. A car that offers big motoring emiles.

THE diesel-engined Shogun is for many, the best all-round fourwheel-drive car on the market,

Excellent off-road, room for up to seven people, with plenty of creature comforts and good on-road too, the Shogun provides keen competi-tion to established four-wheel drive rivals from Land Rover, reports

it comes to selling the car on, and

jaguar & Daimlér

OVERHERS 92E lade Green 3.2 Auto (atring and) 1 pelv owner Pall leg Service History under #9,000 miles superb unsanted condition, £12,695. Tel 01865 792367 Amytine / Liounced Caudit Broker, £72 Welcome. 1

XJB 3.2 Leather Plus AC, 95/96 Required 01635 860504

LESS Supercharger Supphise Sine /Garment Leather, Sub-sood, Air, Cruthe, 19,000 Miller 136,850, System Direct 0,115 924 1144

X16 Convertible, 4.0 Nov '92, Pin menco Red, Man, 74X, FEE, 14 CD £14975, 01962 882657

AUTO

ostment thir. Sports suspension alloys, 6/6, C/C, C/D, PSH, XX Grille.

£27,995

Tel: 01455 285880.

XK8

Convertible, Assigns blue with classic cream leather, CD & 18 such wheels, cracker, FSH, 3650

£59,000(list)-

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dark blue, grey hide,

full specification with AMG wheels,

mint condition, £29,900.

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sonable mileage, 93

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96N, 13k mis, Topuz m

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service history.

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auto 5 spoke alloys, lady

OWINER, FMBSH, rear seats,

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93L, Auto, Black/ Cream hide, FMBSH, 7 seets, SHA, wallnut, ESR, E-se Pioneer CD/ stack femote contro £21,950. Tel: 01654 761555

E200 Est 16V 94L Mid blue grey

doth, 37K 7 seets walnut ESR PEW Stereo R alarm 1 owner £19,950 0171 216 3949 (Day) 01206 870848 (Eve)

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ne/black metallic, cream ther, immaculate, superb cification, 87,000 miles, service history, PLC Director's private car, AA/RAC insp invited. 01273 691783.

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38081 auto, cruise control, 1984, 50% miles, hergendy/balga, 1985, ner soft top, steering box mil heats, private sain, 114,000 evao, Tek 0171 7943570 er 0171 5832385.

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Alpine CD, electric seem, and 138,995cma Tels 01455 612996 (eresis or 01203 636322 (o/k)

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M registered Metalic Blue-Black, Grey leather, CD, elactric rekrors & windows, FMBSH, 30,000 0181 874 5433 0836 275751

(New shape) July 96, metallic great, air non, s/r, melti stack CD, 7 meta, practot, 125 mis, consi vermatij. E38,800 -skoarnem cand. CaS Arthur: (day) 8161 925 5428 or (mio) 91565 664837.

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writes Vaughan Freeman.

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diesel five-door, expect to pay around £21,000, and up to £22,500 for the same car but with the Diamond Option Pack of extra

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Shogun is enjoyable to drive on Tarmac, which is, for most owners, where most of the driving is done, although the manual transmission is preferred over the automatic.

report that, unlike other British-Unusually for a 4x4 car, the

Certainly the strength of the name and its reputation is growing. As well as the popularity of secondhand models, Mitsubishi is selling

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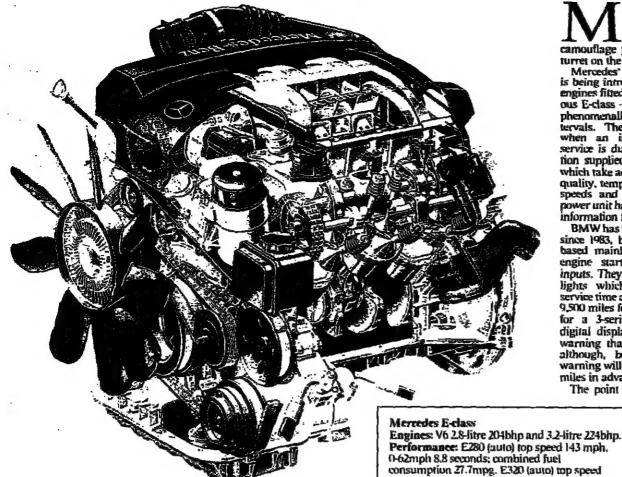
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OPPORTUNITY

REGISTRA-

Stuart Birch reports on a Mercedes system that could cut motorists' garage bills by up to 30 per cent



ercedes-Benz has in-troduced Active Ser-vice. But don't worry. that doesn't mean camouflage paintwork and a gun turret on the roof.

Mercedes' Active Service System Mercedes' Active Service System is being introduced for its new V6 engines fitted initially to the luxurious E-class — and it could lead to phenomenally long oil change intervals. The system determines when an individual car's next service is due, based on information supplied by micro-computers which take account of oil levels and which take account of oil levels and quality, temperatures, engine revs. speeds and loads, to which the power unit has been subjected, plus information from the gearbox.

BMW has had something similar since 1983, but its system is now based mainly on the number of engine starts, plus some other inputs. They use a series of green lights which extinguish as the service time approaches — typically 9,500 miles for a 5-series and 8,000 for a 3-series. Mercedes has a digital display on the dashboard warning that a service is due although, being Mercedes, that warning will initally come up 1,800 miles in advance of the event!

The point of all this is to save

148mph, ()-62mph 7.7 seconds; combined fuel consumption 27.4mpg.
Prices: E280 Classic, £33,480; Elegance, £35,340; Avantgarde, £35,600, £320 Classic, £36,730; Elegance, £38,590; Avantgarde, £38,850.

Need a service? This engine is able to tell you

customers money. Fixed service intervals based only on mileage do not allow for specific use. A car that spends most of its life cruising steadily on motorways with engine revs and temperatures kept within

relatively narrow parameters would require servicing less often.

Mercedes agrees: "Depending on driving styles, some owners can extend oil change intervals with the new Victorians of the party of the service as much as 18 600. new Vo engine to as much as 18,600

miles — even longer."

Other manufacturers will look askance at such a ligure and Mercedes is not pretending that it is the norm - but says it is possible and that average figures will not be that much less. E-class cars with the previous straight six-cylinder engine needed servicing every 9,000 miles. Now owners of a Vo

Mercedes should save about 30 per cent on engine service costs.

The new Vos are impressive in other ways. They are lightweight, efficient and environmentally clean. Initially available in 28 and 3.2-litre forms in E-class saloons and estates, they will also be used in

other model ranges.

They feature three valves per cylinder instead of four — which Mercedes says in a V6 is an aid to cleaner emissions - and there is enough space for a second spark plug which is also good news for emissions. The engines are said to offer a 13 per cent fuel consumption improvement compared to the previous in-line sixes.

Linked to five-speed automatic gearboxes, they give the level of quiet, smooth response expected of a big Mercedes saloon, although step off could sometimes be a shade

jerky. Just caused by my big right foot? Possibly, but I don't think so. The new Vo E280 and E320, like other E-class models (and eventually all Mercedes cars), get brake assist, aiready described by Car 97.

which gives added stopping power in full emergency braking.

Other upgrades in standard equipment (the cars cost about 3 per cent more than the old ones, with the E280 Classic starting at £33,480) included in stalling in the cost of t include air-conditioning, with sunroof an option, a more advanced traction skid control and a system to prevent the passenger airbag deploying if a child seat is being used. Mercedes quite rightly says that children should use a proper seat in the rear of the car.

The traditional ignition key is replaced by an electronic unit. It is said that an average computer would take 90 years to throw up the

There is one other change to the standard E-class specification as well: a radio/ cassette is fitted, with a choice of Sony or Blaupunkt. Their value can be used to offset still higher specification equipment. In the past, Mercedes (and BMW) argued long and hard that these should be optional extras to individual customer choice - questionable when even most of the cheapest cars on the market had a radio. Now, suddenly but belatedly, those well-aired arguments have evapu-rated; both companies are entering the real world of customer in-car

entertainment expectations. And within months all Mcrcedes models will come with a radio as standard - a revelation that will bring a knowing smile to the faces of car sales staff everywhere.

French power full steam ahead

ngines of V6 configura-tion are modish. Last year British motorists bought 25,000 cars with such units. Even in the popular medium ranges, they have become significant - 5 per cent of Mondeos and 10 per cent of Vectras are sold with these powerful and prestigious

1000

Now Citroen is to join the fray. A new Xantia V6 flagship sets sail soon into the UK market, and it has a bigger gun than its mainstream target rivals in the battle for downsizing executive and family customers. While the Ford and Vauxhall pack 25 litres apiece, the Xantia carries 3.0 Ian Morton salutes the arrival of

Citroën's new Xantia flagship

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litres. It is also an automatic. So are Mondeo and Vectra outgunned? With manual transmission they have a quicker rate of fire and the Vectra is cheaper, but in automatic specification their performance fades and Xantia clearly wins the day, getting from 0-60mph in 8.3 seconds and rounding out at 140mph. According to manufacturers' data, the Mondeo takes 10 seconds and makes 130mph. while the Vectra needs 9 seconds and just holds its own

with 141 mph. The Citroën certainly triumphs on price -£21,995 when it arrives here in June, against the current topversion Mondeo automatic at £23,555 and Vectra at £22,430.

This 60-degree all-alloy V6 engine delivers 194bhp at 5,500rpm, but most importantly for instant power flow releasing most of its 1971b ft or torque at only 2,000rpm. What makes it even more impressive is how the automatic transmission handles this output. An advanced "adaptive" gearbox

with computer control, it senses the engine management system, the style or mood of the driver (who can manually select normal, sporty or winter ratios), the weight of extra passengers and luggage, and the road characteristics, then chooses one of a dozen available shift patterns to suit the moment.

Neither is the thunder of battle deafening. Even as it rushes up to its 6.500rpm deadline/cutout, the engine unters nothing more than a spirited snarl. No owner will be discouraged by mechanical noise from utilising this mus-cular unit to the full. Fiercely capable



Citroen Xantia V6: spare, sinewy, balanced and eager

mance is matched by an able chassis. Though the V6 has yet to acquire Citroen's extraordinary "Activa" suspension (that will be offered later), its selflevelling Hydractive computer-controlled system serves with conspicuous gallantry, keeping the car flat in the close-run corners. The tyres grip impressively, a scruff and a squawk informing the driver when no man's land is close.

Ride on average surfaces is firmish without being harsh and if an undulating surface causes a succession of mild resonances in the interior as struts and springs compress, this is all part of the impression of being close to the terrain and in control of it.

Citroën Xantia V6

Engine: V6 3-litre 24-valve developing 194 hhp at 5,500rpm and 1971b ft of torque at 4,000rpm.

Transmission: Four-speed adaptive automatic with 88channel computer, three modes and 12 shift patterns. Performance: 0-60mph in 8.3 seconds, maximum speed 140mph.

Economy: Urban 16.4mpg, extra urban 33.6mpg, combined 24.4mpg.

Price: £21,995.

In everything it does this Xantia feels spare, sinewy, balanced and eager, and the impression admirably suits the trim shape and taut build quality. There is a complete-ness here that not many cars achieve. And though Citroen describes the "Exclusive" trim level as luxurious, the sober hues of leather and alcantara

upholstery and of woodgrain

do not subvert its character.

Other goodies — air-conditioning, cruise control, electric multi-adjustment of the front seats, twin airbags, six-speaker CD audio, electric windows all round, remote-control central locking, ABS brakes - sit equally naturally in such a dynamically capable car.

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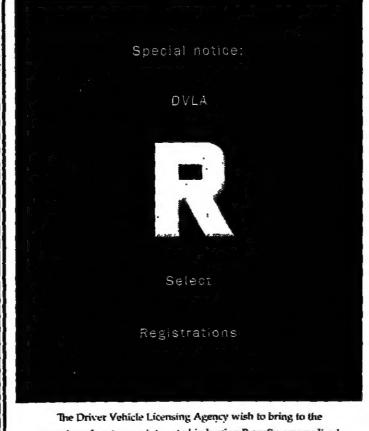
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De Portago at his last control before the 1957 fatality at Guidizzolo

Mercedes racing manager Alfred Neubauer with Jenkinson and Moss

A thousand miles of legend



SATURDAY APRIL

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Peter Miller on 'the most incredible travelling museum in the

racing world'



Count Aymo Maggi in 1927

world's most challenging road

race and eventually consigned to history as a desperately dangerous anachronism, the Mille Miglia contributed more

than its fair share to motor

As the last voters file into

racing mythology.

enowned as a spectacle, condemned as a circus, considered by beat the original race. Attracting the best international drivers of the day, the race was followed by a worldwide audience and throughout Italy posters bearing the distinctive red Mille Miglia symbol of the were plastered on doors, buildings, roads and bridges. Millions of fans — the *tifosi* lined every yard of the route

Britain's polling booths on Thursday evening the count-down will begin for this year's running of its revived modern version, a 1,000-mile time trial for historic vehicles, with two thrilling triumphs and glori-ous defeats, but most of all it overnight stops. It marks a triple anniversary, 70 years since the race was first run, 40 years since it was last run and 20 years since its revival. For the ever-swelling band of international historic racing

cheering their heroes. Starting and finishing in his home town of Brescia, Count Aymo Maggi's brilliant conception was the most competitive race ever. It produced

created champions. The race enthusiasts it is a vital, thrilfing and celebratory event. But for sheer heroics — 1,000 miles non-stop at up to 190mph on



Grand prix driver Jacky Ickx, left, who hopes to compete again this year

Despite a mountain of prob-

chassis va reads: "Now he motors faster on the highways in

n 1947, the first post-war event, some of the roads were still mined and petrol and tyres were at a premium. So Count Maggi offered a free tank of petrol and five new tyres to all entrants. No fewer than 294 turned up for scrutineering to collect their rations. Yet when the time to start came only 155 were flagged away, the remainder heading happily back to all corners of Italy with fuel and tyres considered a

Then there was the incredi-

Benz 300SLR at nearly 99mph. The accident in 1957 was the road at the exit of the village of Guidizzolo just 25 miles from the finish, killing himself, his American journal-

10 spectators, including several children. Observers of the incident said that Portago's probable speed through the village was near to 180mph and he had passed within a couple of feet some 1,000 young orphans in white suits and dresses seated at trestle tables enjoy ing their picnic spread. The Ferrari's left front tyre was showing the canvas breakerstrip and de Portago and the

ist passenger, Ed Nelson, and

children were only separated by a rope barrier. When the children of Guidizzolo died in 1957, so too did the true spirit of the old Mille Miglia - where a driver was flagged off the wooden starting ramp in Brescia's Viale Rebuffone and hurtled round the route, stopping only for fuel and to have a routecard stamped at eight different

controls, showing he had

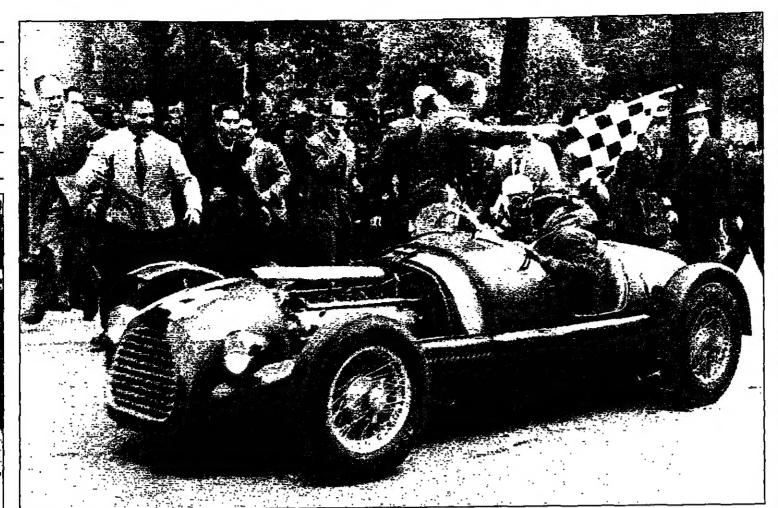
Moss and Jenkinson winning in 1955 at an average of nearly 99mph, a race record passed through and not found

a short cut or two. A rally-type event was held in 1958, 1959 and 1961 in a rather desultory fashion and then the Mille Miglia fell into obscurity. It was relaunched in 1977 thanks to the vision of the present organising committee headed by Costantino Franchi and is now recognised as a most prestigious event for veteran and historic sports

he first car away on Thursday will be the red "OM" — the celebrated Brescia-built Officine Meccaniche which

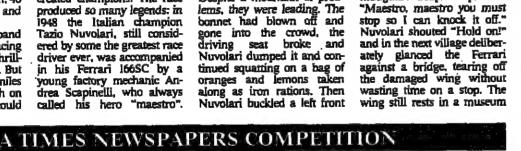
finished 1,2,3 in 1927. Even before the start, this year's event has made history. When entries officially closed on December 31, the organisers had received more than 800 applications offering an extraordinary selection of collector's cars from all over the world including 180 from Germany, 62 from Great Britain, 52 from Switzerland, 20 from Argentina and 19 from Japan. For safety reasons, entries have been limited to 350 starters and the event is now justly entitled "the most incredible travelling museum in the world".

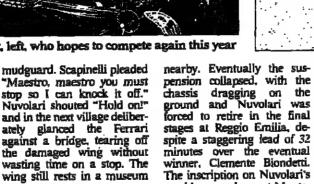
After a three-hour run to Ferrara for a brief night stop, the 700 drivers face the next day's stage from Ferrara to Rome for another night's stop before the 15-hour drive back to Brescia. They can expect heavy rain, fog and snow and ice over the mountains of central Italy making the roads just as hazardous as they sometimes were for the original racers. There are numerous timed sections and hillclimbs where times are recorded to one-hundredth of a second using hand-held stop watches or chronometers only. with penalty points being amassed for early or late arrival. Electronic navigational aids are forbidden, after "cheating" by certain works-

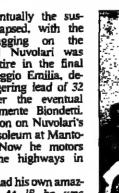


Nuvolari with Scapinelli in their Ferrari during the 1948 Mille Miglia, from which they were forced to retire when leading by 32 minutes









Biondetti had his own amazing record. At 18 he was penniless and made the money to buy his first race car by buying old bananas from the docks in Genova and selling them to villagers in the mountains. He went on to win the race in 1938, 1947, 1948 and 1949 and died a wealthy

luxury. ble drive of Stirling Moss. accompanied by the bearded navigator Denis "Jenks" Jenkinson, who completed the 1,000 miles in a record 10 hours 7 minutes and 48 seconds in 1955 in their Mercedes-

exactly what the race directors had dreaded: the Spanish nobleman, the Marchese Alfonso "Fon" de Portago somersaulted his scarlet Ferrari into the crowds beside



who's driving the Volvo C70

f you spot Volvo's sleek new coupe in the next few L weeks, stand well back because it probably has a racing driver at the wheel.

Kevin Eason on

Pedro Diniz and Damon Hill have just taken delivery of a C70 each, a perk of the job if you drive for TWR's Arrows Formula One team because it also runs the Volvo entry in the British Touring Car

Championships. The C70s are the first in this country and will sharpen Volvo's new image as a maker of sporty cars, an image honed by TWR which has made Volvo successful in the touring



Diniz and Volvo: "I think I will enjoy driving it very much"

cars series. Even if you don't spot Diniz or Hill in theirs, you will be able to see the C70 starring with Val Kilmer at the

movies in The Saint. Pedro warmed to his new company car on his first outing after it was delivered to

Arrows ready for the San Marino grand prix at Imola this weeked. "It handles well and there is

no turbo lag. The engine is also very smooth. I think I will enjoy driving it very much." Son of a multi-millionaire supermarket magnate in Brazil. Pedro not only has a

given one to go the shops back home in Monaco, where presumably be has to tune in his satellite dish to watch rounds of the touring cars champion-

Things are not going entire-ly to plan for TWR Volvo S40 Racing, the team we are following this season. Alain Menu, in his Renault Laguna prepared by Williams, is still the man to beat, winning both rounds at Silverstone last veekend, but Rickard Rydell is second in the championship and looks stronger with each race. Kelvin Burt is fourth in the standings.

But the \$40 is still a relatively new car and each race brings an improvement, with Rydell and Burt hoping to reel in the Renault. Next round is on May 4 and 5 at Thruxton.

Play Fantasy Formula One



Prizes worth £40,000 Narlboro

n the eve of tomorrow's race, the San Marino with the Marlboro World Championship Team, just Grand Prix at Imola, we reprint the Fantasy choose a team of six racing drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups listed in the panel Formula One scores for each of the selections

after the Argentinian Grand Prix. The panel below shows Berger leading the drivers with 415 points and McLaren heading the constructors with 65 points. Full results of tomorrow's race will appear in Sport next Friday. To register to play our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One

JACKPOT: The manager with the best team score on our Famasy Formula One leaderboard after the final race of the season, the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril, on October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS: The manager of the

team with the most points in tomorrow's San Marino GP will win a VIP trip to the British GP. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250.

TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE Call our entry hotline on 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 31) outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. You will be asked to nominate your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix

where bonus points apply.
You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry.

TRANSFERS If you've already entered a team you can change up to four selections before the Monaco Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (++44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday May 8. Your new team must comprise three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three selections you make will be deemed to be your prediction for the Monaco Grand Prix bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check the scores and positions of your team(s) on 0891 884 648 (0044 990 100 348 ex UK) and tap in your 10-digit PIN number. The line currently carries all positions after the Argentinian GP and will be updated on Wednesday April 30 after the San Marino GP.

16 P Diniz 132 384 17 R Rosset 0 23 J Magnussen 117 158 18 R Schumacher 142 207 24 V Sospiri 49 31 Arrows 27 McLaren 28 Benettor 8 31 29 Jordan

below. Entry lines are open for registration for the

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

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274 08 D Coulthard

354 09 R Barrichello

270 10 HH Frentzen

291 11 J Herbert

415 12 M Salo

153 21 N Larini

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checkline below.

Thursday May 8. You can also

The first column of figures in light type after the names show the Fantasy Formula One Argentinian GP race scores, the second column the total competition points so far

02 M Schumache

03 J Villeneuve

04 E Irvine

05 J Alesi

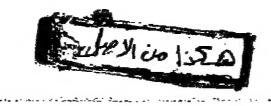
06 G Berger

14 J Verstappe

15 U Katayama

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

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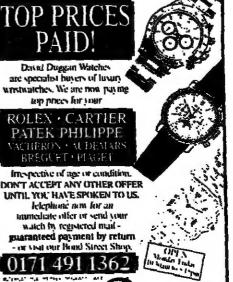
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Mary Spillane, the American who has been colour-coding Britain's politicians, talks to Andrew Pierce

'Sister Veronica was a demon nun behind the wheel'

udging by the appearance of most of the politicians paraded in front of the television cameras, you might think few had been given the benefit of the advice of Mary Spillane, one of Britain's leading image consul-tants. But in fact she has worked for all the major political parties except Plaid Cymru.

Ms Spillane was one of the first to set up a company giving advice to career women on their appearance. Born outside Boston, she worked for both Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan as a crisis manager before coming to Britain in 1981.

On the three party leaders she believes that Tony Blair's dress sense is terrific. "He is a modern man. His image is good."

John Major's image is more polished than five years ago. "But it would be wonderful to see him dress more casually."

She picks Paddy Ashdown as the best of the three. "He could wear a bin liner and still look good. He has been blessed because the election has been called in spring. It has made their colour, yellow, look

But Ashdown's fellow Lib Dem MPs were told to clean up their act by brushing their hair, buying new ties, and washing their shirts. Ms

STEERING COLUMN

Spillane met 25 MPs for the dressing down. Simon Hughes, who is defending Bermondsey and Southwark, was advised to wash his shirts more often and women candidates were told to wear jack ets with square shoulders. Bright ties were in vogue for the men. Whether her advice will make much impact on polling day re-

How did you first learn to drive?

With Sister Veronica, Yes, a nun, at the Academy of the Holy Angels at the age of 16. She was a demon behind the wheel and gave us detention if we swore when we got

What was your first car?

The same make I am driving today and have done so for almost 30 years - a VW. Then it was a bug. just get a new one every two or

What car do you drive now.

Only in America, where I hire Lincolns to cruise in. Britain is not a cruising country. The roads are

What is your most hated car?

Ones with shot exhaust systems that choke the rest of us. In America you can make a citizen's arrest on such drivers, who are considered more anti-social than smokers.

What is your dream car?

I don't dream about cars. But I would not turn down a 67 Thunderbird Convertible. White with matching leather interiors, of

What is your worst habit in

Putting on lipstick while I driving and changing gears.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Like everyone, I have slept in them, had rained-out picnics in them, and been a naughty girl (occasionally). But, like most women, my car has

doubled up as the makeover chamber when needing to transform from Cinderella into a princess.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Those who don't show manners, like saying thank you with a wave or a smile when you let them in.

Have you ever had points on your

None, despite being a Taurean who, according to recent American research, have the worst record for accidents. Obviously they must have counted only boy Bulls; the girls are very well-behaved when What do you listen to in the car?

Radio 4 or Jazz FM. Driving to Sussex every Friday is a ritual of The Archers, Pick of the Week then Any Questions.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Mary Spillane: "I don't dream about cars, but I wouldn't turn down a '67 Thunderbird Convertible. White with matching leather interiors" Insist that all traffic wardens in Westminser were former social workers (not prison officers) so that tickets would be more negotiable.

What is your favourite car

I am oblivious to them all. Some have nice music but others irritate.

The new car's great in theory, but will the factory be able to build it?

Vactory workers are being replaced by computer images in a Ford plan to save the company £125 million

a year worldwide. Ford is to use computergenerated "virtual factory" and "virtual worket" techniques to replace vehicle proto-. es and human skills in the design stage. The concept will mean a 20 per cent reduction in the number of design changes that have to be introduced during the late development stages to make vehicles

easier to build.

Ian Morton looks at how Ford is screening in the human condition

Ford claims to be the first car manufacturer to use computer simulations to design its vehicle final assembly processes on a global basis. If the concept goes into general use. it will slice an estimated £1.5 billion off carmakers' costs.

The virtual factory includes computer-simulated employees who test proposed assembly line processes against the

human shape and its field of

movement. Men and women

or humanly impossible, neces-

of different sizes can be simulated to make sure there are no ergonomic problems. In the past such problems have emerged only after the carmaker had built prototypes and guinea-pig workers had tried to assemble them, often finding the processes difficult sitating expensive design

The technique has already been used by Ford to design the door module, fuel tank placement and door latch on a future car, the drive-line assembly on a second car, and the instrument panel on a light truck. It will be utilised on the of all manufacturing processes for 2000 and beyond

Use of "virtual factory" has resulted in assembly processes designed faster and at lower cost, and in vehicles designed

to be easier to assemble and to service and with better build quality, says Bruce Hettle, manager of the large and luxury car division at Ford's global final-assembly engineering studios.

These computer simulations are a big help in Ford's drive to bring new cars and trucks to market faster," he says. "Assembly techniques can now be developed at the same time as components are designed. Both are designed simultaneously on computer. reducing reliance on expensive prototypes early in the product

evelopment process." Because manufacturing engineers work alongside product design engineers and both use the same computer images of vehicle components and facilities, design changes can be made immediately and early to improve ease of as-sembly. This high-tech teamwork is made possible through

tion of Ford's new integrated computer-aided design, engineering, manufacturing and product information management system, known as C3P,

n the past, product de-sign engineers would design a component, a prototype part would be made and then manufacturing engineers and hourly product specialists would work to make the assembly process feasible," says Mark Phillips, manufacturing systems supervisor in Ford's paint and final assembly engi-

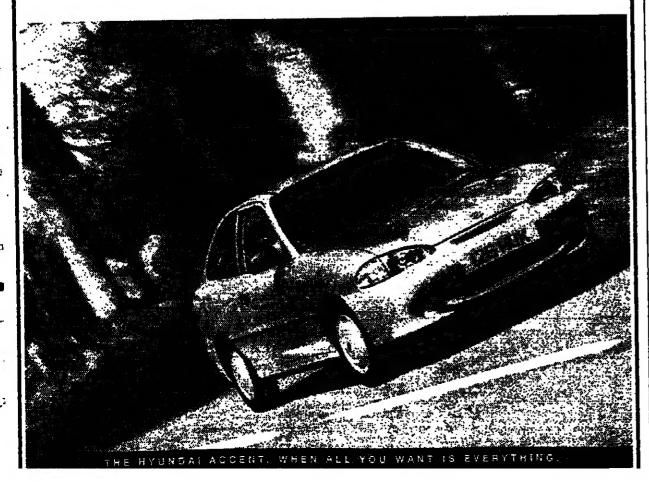
neering division. "Making engineering changes for ease of assembly was an expensive project. Now they can be made sooner. quicker and with the input of the manufacturing staff who have to build the vehicle. without relying entirely on expensive prototypes."



Ford vision: if it's virtually correct, it will work in reality-

By all means, look around for another £7,600 car that offers as much as this.

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Daewoo aims for the top ten

Tony Lewis in

Seoul reports

on the new Korean trio

PROOF, if proof was needed, of the burgeoning ambition of Daewoo, the Korean car maker, has been provided by the company's plans to launch three new models simultaneously in Europe by the end of this year. Daewoo has already thrust the trio of new cars on to its domestic market as it served notice of the eriousness of its intentions to win a place in the world's top ten carmakers' league by the end of the decade.

Named Lanos, Nubira and Leganza, they form the second wave of Daewoo exports, corporate virility symbols after 24 years selling the Nexia and Espero in the UK, fundamentally tarted up Astra and US Cavaliers, respectively.

Lanos (in hatchback and saloon forms) will replace the Nexia, although slightly smaller and the Nubira saloon, an incremental estate, will eclipse the Espero, again with marginally less bulky external dimensions.

But the Leganza, in saloononly format, moves Daewoo up into previously uncharted territory, pitched against Ford's Mondeo, Vauxhall's Vectra and the Peugeot 406. This new flagship offering should be heavily specified complete with leather and wood, air-conditioning and CD sound system. By previous Daewoo standards it is understated, nothing garish or over-embellished. The interior majors on "soft feel" surfaces. avoiding previous tacky

Daewoo's UK research and



Daewoo in production: with high customer satisfaction, the target is to overtake Hyundai

trio underwent testing at the Motor Industry Research Association's Midlands test track.

As a result, they display European ride and handling virtues, firm enough on corners but supple over uneven surfaces. It is under the bonnet where the brave new Daewoos require most attention, all the engines, particularly the 2litre being harsh and lacking flexibility, but new power units are promised by 1999,

from i.3-litres upwards. They are badly needed in an area where Ford, Vauxhall, Peugeot and the Japanese marques take engine relinement as read. Equally, the automatic transmission on the 2-litre Nubira hunts and shunts, generating annoying transaxle "snatch", but a more refined ZF system on the Leganza avoids that.

Determined to provide state-of-the-art European styl-

Audi A3, Rover 200 and BMW in a cocktail of styles.

In a head-to-head, the Nubira is probably not up to the more advanced standards of arch rival Hyundai's Accent, but Leganza is markedly ahead of the opposition's Sonata. It is the Leganza, larger and most upmarket of the three models, which is considered as an entree into the smaller company fleets on a specification for price basis.

THE SUCCESS of the company's European marketing strategy so far is undeniable. With its friendly showrooms featuring computer displays and crèches, its comprehensive servicing arrangements, long warranties and deliberate fostering of its own secondhand market it has made a huge impact within less than three years.

In the recent J.D. Power SUIVEY of customer coricina

all satisfaction, although it was the first time the marque was eligible for inclusion. - .-

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Dave Sargent, Power's director of European operations. said Daewoo very nearly received an award in its first year in the study. The cars were rated almost as highly as industry leaders and customers are extremely satisfied with

how they are looked after. The study is based on experiences of more than 16,500 readers who responded to a questionnaire in Top Gear magazine. It takes into account performance, mileage covered, reliability, treatment by dealers and compares them against the original expectation of buyers to come up with

an index based on satisfaction. Pricing will be the key to success of the new models in Britain. With 20,000 sales here last year. Daewoo is intent on overtaking Hyundai by add-